MIDLANDS

THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

ZONE

THE ESSENTIAL NIGHTLIFE + CLUBBING GUIDE

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LOOKING AHEAD TO PRIDE EVENTS ACROSS THE MIDLANDS

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birmingham pride 2015

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THIS SUMMER'S HOTTEST SWIMWEAR STYLES!

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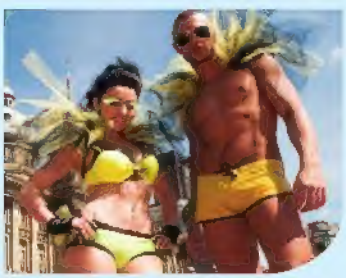
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WIN! WIN! WIN!

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Stay connected...

TO GET THE LATEST GAY NEWS, VISIT:

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The Midlands news website for the LGBT community

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The Editor's Note

Ryan Humphreys @ryanhumphreys

The month of June is here, and that can mean only one glorious thing - summer's arrived! Not surprisingly, here in the Zone offices we're busy planning our vacations. But don't worry, we're helping you with yours too, courtesy of our sexy swimwear feature on p32. Check it out for some of the best styles for you to rock on the beach!

Brum Pride success!

Birmingham Pride has been a year in the planning for its organisers - and having been present at both days of the festival, we can definitely say all the hard work reaped some truly incredible rewards. Pride 2015 was a very good job well done by all!

We know Lawrence and his incredible team can't organise the weather, but even that was a wonderfully welcome turn up for the books!

The festival kicked off with the Carnival Parade, the theme for which was #Freedom - Together United. The parade was full of vibrant colour, a sight to behold - and a spectacle for which a staggering 75,000-plus people lined the streets! It really showed how effectively the LGBT community and its allies can pull together to spread important messages.

Of course, Pride wouldn't be Pride without the city's Gay Village, where the party really got going after the parade. I think one of the many highlights was the incredible line-up of artists on the Main Stage. Catering for everybody's tastes isn't an easy feat, but the team behind the scenes really hit the nail on the head. My personal favourite across the weekend? Heather Small, who dedicated her sensational performance of Proud to the Republic of Ireland after news that the country's referendum on same-sex marriage had gone the right way!

So that's Birmingham Pride over for another year - now there's just the little matter of the rest of the summer-long Pride season to look forward to!

Yes and Yes

In the Republic of Ireland, the outcome of the referendum on gay marriage ably illustrated how profoundly attitudes have changed in modern times. Indeed, Diarmuid Martin, the archbishop of Dublin, responded to the Yes vote by saying that it illustrated just how much work the Catholic Church needed to do to re-connect with young people.

Meanwhile, up in Scotland, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland voted to allow congregations to ordain gay ministers who're in same-sex civil partnerships...

It's been a long road and there's still some travelling to do, but there's a definite scent of real, honest-to-goodness equality in the air nowadays, make no mistake about that.

New Pride on the block

There's just room left to wish everybody connected with Coventry's first ever Pride festival the very best of luck across the weekend of 27 & 28 June. A brand new Pride event for the Midlands' gay community to enjoy is definitely something to be celebrated. Fingers crossed the weather plays ball and a good time is had by all (it's always nice to end with a rhyme!).

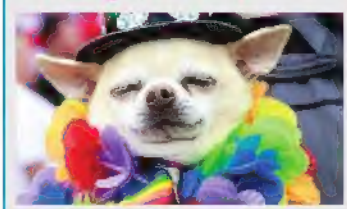
Ryan x

What's Hot!

Yay for Joey Graceffa comes out!

Last month one of the world's most popular YouTube stars came out on his online channel. We've long been fans of Joey's, so we're delighted to see that he's been able to take this brave step to come out when he's such a huge public figure for so many young teens. Role models like Joey are what the world needs more of!

This dog we spotted at Birmingham Pride...

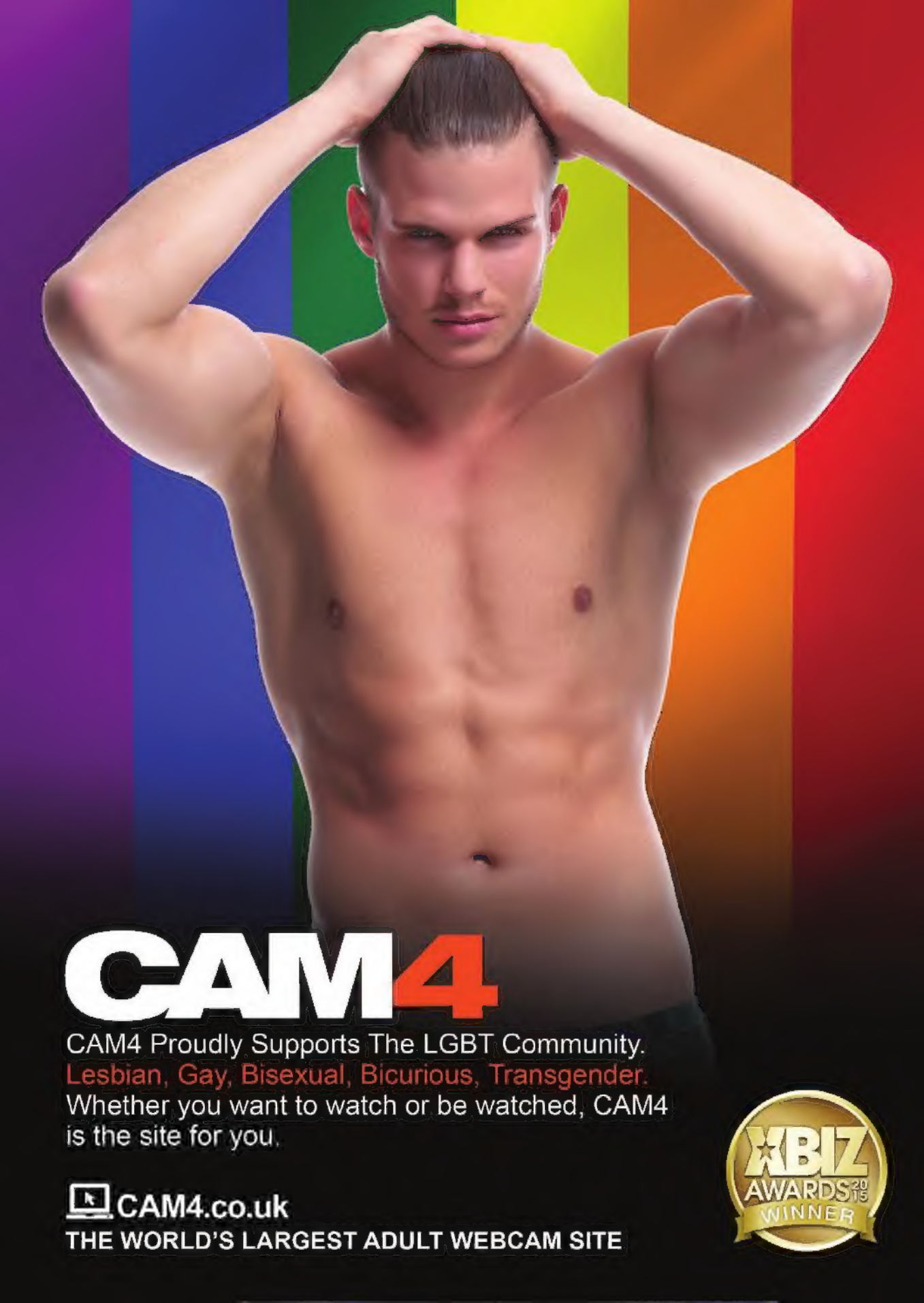


Cute. Enough said...

What's Not!

Northern Ireland's the odd one out...

Following last month's incredible vote for same-sex marriage in Ireland, that means Northern Ireland is the last part of the UK to allow their residents the right to a same-sex marriage. Four out of five simply isn't good enough - get a move on!


CAM4
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is the site for you.
CAM4.co.uk
THE WORLD'S LARGEST ADULT WEBCAM SITE
XBIZ AWARDS 2015 WINNER

Natalie Drew

Family Pride Co-Organiser
Birmingham

Born: **Birmingham**
Star sign: **Pisces**
Age: **40**

Each month we take a look at someone from the Midlands LGBT community. This issue our focus turns on Natalie Drew, co-organiser for the annual Family Pride festival.

About Natalie

Where did you grow up?
I was brought up in Harborne, Birmingham.

Single or attached?
I'm attached. I've been with my partner, Ash, for fourteen years.

What makes you happy?
Spending time with my children and witnessing their experiences as they grow up.

What makes you sad?
One thing that makes me really sad is wasted lives caused by addictions, which in turn are caused by social circumstances.

What makes you angry?
Rudeness. For example, when you hold the door open for someone to pass, or you allow someone to go first when driving, and they don't say thank you.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?
I wish I wasn't so stubborn. My daughter is the same, and now I see how annoying it can be!

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?
Last year I was meeting my friend Emma for birthday drinks. I thought she was standing at the bar when we walked in. So I rushed up behind her, slapped her backside and said "It's your lucky night". Then she turned round and it wasn't Emma, but a random person with the same hair style!

Now that same-sex marriage has been legalised, would you consider getting married?
I've been in a civil partnership with Ashling for nine years and we're converting it into a marriage in August. For me, having a religious upbringing, it was a must when we decided to start a family. It makes the children feel more secure knowing that we've committed to each other.

Coming Out

When did you first know you were gay?
It was quite late on in life compared to many. I first knew when I was 17.

When did you come out?
Again, when I was 17.

What was school like for you as a gay teenager?
I didn't know at school. I was quiet and kept myself to myself. I started dancing in Tin Tin's and made friends with one of the bar staff. Within a week we'd started seeing each other, and that's when I realised why I'd never been interested in the opposite sex.

Who was the first person you told you were gay, and what was their reaction?
I told my mom, as my brother had seen me kissing my girlfriend. She went mental, told me it was a phase and that I had to choose between her and my family. I chose her. After a few years, my mom became a bit more accepting that I wasn't going to change.

What would you say to a youngster trying to come to terms with their own sexuality?
My advice would be to talk to those around you who you believe will react positively. That way, you'll have an idea of who will support you as you start to encounter new experiences.

My nephew told me that he thought he was gay last year. This came as no surprise to me, as I'd known since he was four or five. I told him that he should be who he wants to be and do what makes him happy. Whether it be liking a boy or a girl, I'll support him regardless.

Have you ever had any experiences with the opposite sex?
I had a boyfriend who I used to go to Tin Tin's with, but it was never sexual. It was more of a 'mate' relationship.

Your Career

When you were younger, what did you want to be?
I always wanted to be a property developer.

What was your first job after leaving school?
When I first left school, I became a receptionist at a local estate agents.

You run the Gay Family Web Fertility Centre. What inspired you to start it?
One of the main inspirations behind starting Gay Family Web was that I felt there was a lack of advice and support for same-sex couples looking to start a family.

Has the centre been a success?
Since I started the fertility centre, I've helped over 700 of my clients to conceive. It's very rewarding to know that I've helped bring happiness to so many.

Do you have any plans to expand Gay Family Web?
We currently have centres in Birmingham and London, with a clinic in Madrid for IUI/IVF and surrogacy in the States. We've been approached to work with centres even more further afield, so I hope to open another two centres within three years.

Family Pride

What was the motivation for starting a Pride event specifically geared towards families?
Having two children of our own, we found that none of the Pride events had a specific family area with activities geared towards children. So we thought we'd try it and see if it was welcomed.

How has the event been received?
We're in our fourth year and it's great to see so many varieties of family attending. We have several families who've been attending Family Pride from the beginning. They now feel some ownership and help out at the event, putting suggestions forward for future activities and meet-ups.

What have you got in store for Family Pride 2015?
We want the stage to have more acts performing from morning until night. We've also added an additional day because we've had an overwhelming response.

What's the biggest challenge you face in organising Family Pride?
One of the biggest challenges is keeping on top of the paperwork, as I'm a full-time property developer and Ash is an exam invigilator and moderator. This means that she could be in Dubai today and Germany tomorrow.

How rewarding do you find running Family Pride?
It's exhausting. I get about four hours sleep per night running up to the event and once we're on site. But to see so many happy children running around, meeting other children and sharing their experiences makes it all worthwhile.

Where would you like to see Family Pride in five years' time?

I'd like to see two events running in five years' time; one in Leek, where we've been for the last four years, and one in the south of England. We've also looked at buying a piece of land to run a gay family campsite.

Gay Scene

How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay scene?

I've been on the gay scene since I was 17 years old. My cousin introduced me to Hilli from The Fox when she worked at The Nightingale, as she was worried about me going on the scene. I remember being in Tin Tin's when I saw my best friend kissing a woman. I was horrified. She'd never told me she had feelings for women, and I'd let her sleep in my bed for the previous six years. We're still best friends and laugh about it now, as we were too scared to tell each other at the time.

Who's your favourite cabaret act on the gay scene?

It has to be Miss Orry, as he always gets the crowd involved.

Who's your favourite person on the gay scene?

Definitely Dan from Eden. He always makes time to say hi and ask how you are.

What do you most enjoy about the gay scene?

I enjoy that we have so many bars and clubs to suit all tastes. We're so lucky to have a safe environment where we can be ourselves without fear of being harmed.

What have you noticed about the way the gay scene's changed over the years?

I've noticed that there's not the taboo there used to be about going to a gay bar. Now it's the place to be, with the best DJs, and seems to be attractive to young people regardless of their sexuality.

How would you change the Midlands' gay scene?

I'd make the bars more family friendly. We take our children to Eden and The Fox on a Sunday when it's quiet, but we've been told we couldn't enter some venues as their license doesn't cover children.

Time Out

Where do you like to go on a night out?

We tend to start at the top of Hurst Street and end up in The Village till around 4am.

What do you do to relax?

We have holiday homes in Devon, so I love nothing more than finishing work on a Friday afternoon, packing a bag and heading for the beach for the weekend.

What do you enjoy on telly?

I try not to watch normal TV. It tends to be Netflix or children's programmes. If we're in the UK, though, then it has to be breakfast in bed watching Saturday Kitchen.

What was the last album or track you bought?

The latest Live Lounge album.

Which one website do you spend the most time on?

Amazon. I have a vinyl collection of around 10,000, so I'm always on there searching for vinyl.

Which type of holiday do you prefer?

Anywhere sunny. We try to do a couple of weeks a year in Gran Canaria and one main holiday in the summer further afield, so that the children get to see the real country and meet the people.

Quickfire

Who's your favourite actor?

Angelina Jolie.

What's your favourite book?

To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee.

Half empty or half full?

Half full.

What's your favourite food?

Sunday roast.

And how about your favourite drink?

Amaretto.

Madonna or Lady Gaga?

Madonna.

If you could take a selfie with one person, alive or dead, who would it be?

Christopher Columbus.

Natalie Drew (right) with her partner

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What's On
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PRIDE Organisers hail Birmingham Pride 2015 'the most successful Pride ever'

The organisers of this weekend's Birmingham Pride festival have hailed it as their biggest and most successful event ever as over 75,000 spectators turned out to support the parade through the city centre, while over 60,000 party revelers enjoyed the festival in city's gay village throughout the two days.

The event enjoyed it's biggest ever line-up this year, which included headliners **Jess Glynne**, **Example**, **Heather Small**, **Atomic Kitten** and **Jimmy Somerville**, together with over 100 performers and DJs.

Lawrence Barton, Birmingham Pride Festival Director commented: 'This year's festival has been undoubtedly our most successful in its 19 year history, we were amazed by the tens of thousands spectators that turned out to support our 'Freedom' Parade in addition to the 60,000 visitors to the two day Pride festival that followed.

'We are indebted to both West Midlands Police and the security teams deployed who collectively ensured it was such a safe and happy Pride for everyone to enjoy'.

Everyone who got involved worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of this year's festival went without a hitch. We're all immensely proud of everyone who took part, and it all bodes well for our special 20th event next year.'

West Midlands Police have confirmed that despite large crowds partying into the early hours on both nights there were no arrests made.

Birmingham Pride, which is a not-for-profit organisation, have also announced that they have covered all their costs, despite the withdrawal of all Birmingham City Council funding from this year. The organisers have also confirmed that they have raised a good amount of money for local LGBT causes. The final amount raised is expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

Birmingham Pride next year is being held on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 May 2016.

TV New Channel Four documentary to focus on gay sauna in Nottingham

A Channel Four documentary about gay saunas will focus on the CS2 sauna in Nottingham.

Secrets Of The Sauna will provide an 'insight into a hidden world and a surprising, sideways look at modern gay relationships'.

The documentary will follow regular customer Narvel, a local politician and his new husband, and sauna owners John and Joe to explore the ups and downs of their relationships.

Channel Four have not yet set a transmission date for the documentary, but it's expected to air later this year.

EVENTS Annual BiCon event returns to Nottingham for 2015

It's been announced that BICon - which bills itself as 'the biggest annual bisexual event in the UK' - will this summer return to Nottingham for the first time since 1993.

The event takes place at the University of Nottingham University Campus from Thursday 13 to Sunday 16 August.

BiCon is an annual meeting of bisexuals from around the UK and across the world, attracting hundreds of people each year. The event offers the chance for individuals to have fun, make new friends and, if they choose to do so, get involved in activism against biphobia.

For more information or to book tickets, visit www.bicon.org.uk

PRIDE BALL Walsall Pride Ball returns for third year

This month sees the return of one of the most popular events in Walsall's LGBT calendar - the Walsall Pride Ball.

Now in its third year, the ball raises funds for the annual Walsall Pride.

Hosted in the town's Arbor Lights bar & restaurant, the 2015 ball takes place on Friday 12 June from 7pm.

The glamorous event comprises a three-course meal and entertainment from popular cabaret queens Sandra and Kara Van Park. Local drag legend Glamour will also be on hand as DJ and hostess.

A charity raffle and live auction take place throughout the night.

Organisers have also announced that a Pride Ball After Party will take place at Walsall's award-winning Lion Bar & Club. West End and Priscilla Queen Of The Desert star Emma Lindars will appear live on stage at 1.30am.

Last year's ball raised hundreds of pounds for Walsall Pride. Organisers are hoping to better the effort this year.

Tickets for the ball are available at £40 per person. For more information about booking, visit www.walsallpride.org

COMMUNITY East Midlands Ambulance Service launches new LGBT network

The East Midlands Ambulance Service has introduced a new support network for the LGBT community.

The Derby Telegraph reports that the new network, which focuses on staff wellbeing, runs alongside the ambulance service's 'Peer to Peer' and 'Pastoral Care Workers' schemes. It also engages with community events such as Pride festivals and numerous other networks, including Leicester 999 LGBT Network and Union LGBT.

Last month, ambulance service colleagues gathered to raise a rainbow flag to mark International Day Against Homophobia at the service headquarters at Horizon Place.

The launch of the new network also includes a new Twitter account - @EMAS_LGBT.

THEATRE Michael Cashman play set to show in Birmingham this month

A new play telling the story of a man imprisoned for attempted murder, and of the correspondence he undertakes with actor, politician and gay activist Michael Cashman, is set to show in Birmingham this month.

At Ease has been written by Rod Dungate and uses correspondence, interviews and newspaper articles to set out an extraordinary tale of one man's personal journey to redemption.

The production shows at the Old Joint Stock Theatre in Birmingham from Wed 17 to Saturday 20 June. Tickets are now available from www.oldjointstock.co.uk.

NATIONAL NEWS

HEALTH Terrence Higgins Trust renews calls for access to PrEP

Terrence Higgins Trust has renewed calls for access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

The UK's largest HIV and sexual health charity said a vaccine for HIV could still be a long way off, but that existing prevention methods mean the UK already has the potential to reduce onward transmission of HIV, providing there is enough will to do so.

Latest figures show around one in four (24 per cent) of people with HIV remain undiagnosed and are unaware of their infection.

PrEP is taken before sex to reduce the risk of getting HIV. It is currently not available in the UK but Terrence Higgins Trust is advocating for PrEP to be made available on the NHS because it has the potential to prevent new infections among some of those at greatest risk of acquiring HIV.

RELIGION Catholic Church 'defeated' by gay marriage vote in Ireland, say Vatican

A Vatican newspaper has lamented that the Catholic Church's attempt to keep gay couples away from marriage in Ireland has failed, reports Gay Star News.

According to the website: 'The Osservatore Romano has said they have been 'defeated', highlighting a gap between their dated views and the ones held by 62% of Irish voters.'

EQUALITY Scotland Europe's best for gay legal equality

When it comes to legal equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, Scotland is the best country in Europe.

BBC News reports: 'Scotland came top of the Rainbow Index after meeting 92% of ILGA-Europe's criteria for equality and human rights, ahead of the UK as a whole.'

THE VIRAL ROUND-UP

Here's what we've been looking at online...

We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

Orange Is The New Black meets Reservoir Dogs!

A must-see parody of an iconic film!

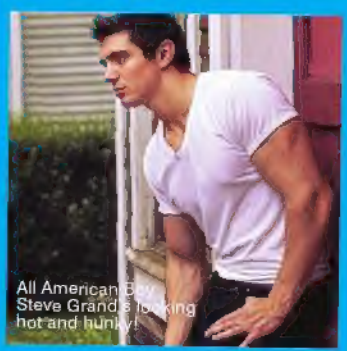
Listen up, all you Orange Is The New Black fans! As part of US telly network NBC's Red Nose Day coverage (yes, Red Nose Day is now a thing in America!), the cast of OITNB have created a parody of iconic Quentin Tarantino movie Reservoir Dogs. Reservoir Bitches sees the stars of the Netflix show planning their own heist - but they're a little annoyed about their code names... See it here: youtu.be/roDUNrLGVjI

WATCH THIS! The best video we've been watching this month...

We've featured his work before - so it's no surprise he's come up on our radar again. Toderick Hall, a former American Idol semi-finalist, has achieved the seemingly impossible by creating a medley of 70 different Beyoncé songs in just four minutes! The medley features all the classics plus a number of lesser-known album tracks too. You can watch his very respectable effort here: youtu.be/qQuRhxVsJds

SNAP HAPPY!

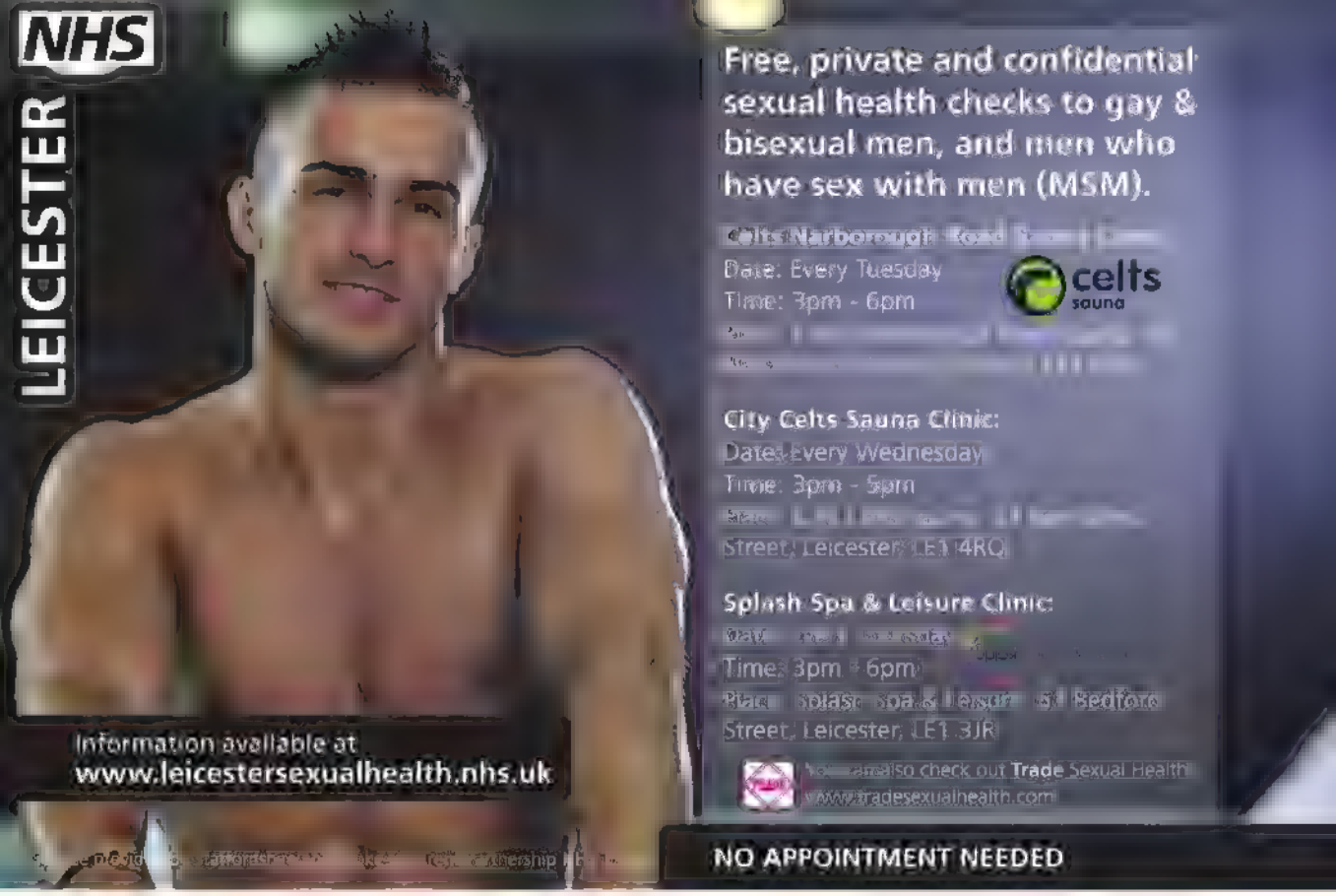
Our favourite pictures from Instagram...



All American Boy Steve Grand is looking hot and hunky!

What we'd do to tuck up to Harry Judd here...

David Beckham's on Instagram. How couldn't we include him?


NHS
LEICESTER
Free, private and confidential sexual health checks to gay & bisexual men, and men who have sex with men (MSM).
Date: Every Tuesday
Time: 3pm - 6pm
celts sauna
City Celts Sauna Clinic:
Time: 3pm - 5pm
Street, Leicester, LE1 4RQ
Splash Spa & Leisure Clinic:
Time: 3pm - 6pm
Street, Leicester, LE1 3JR
Information available at
www.leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk
NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

GALAXY
For more info
info@galaxyyouth.co.uk
0300 123 0970
GayLife
Galaxy is a youth group for young people aged 19 and under from Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or unsure.
Gay Galaxyyouth Centre

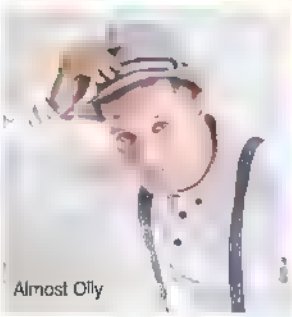
Celebrating ten years of **Gloucestershire Pride**

Saturday 13 June
Gloucester Park, Gloucester
glospride.org.uk

Gloucestershire Pride returns to the streets and parks of Gloucester this month as the event celebrates its tenth anniversary.

Kicking off the one-day festival is a colourful walking parade through the city's streets. Starting at 12.15pm outside the Shire Hall and led by the Town Crier, the procession will snake its way to Gloucester Park, where the fun really begins. A whole day's worth of entertainment is scheduled across two stages and a dance arena. Performers include Nicki French, Almost Olly and Zoe Alexander as Pink

Gloucestershire Pride takes place on Saturday 13 June at Gloucester Park, Gloucester.



Introducing **Coventry Pride** - a brand new LGBT festival

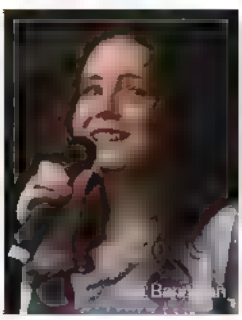
Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 June
Fargo Village, Coventry
coventrypride.moonfruit.com

Coventry Pride is a brand new two-day festival celebrating the life and culture of the city's LGBT community.

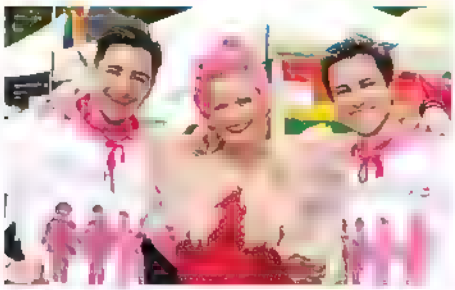
Hosted at the trendy Fargo Village, the family-friendly event promises to be a colourful celebration of LGBT life. As well as performances and entertainment, the festival also features a number of stalls, and cuisine from around the world

Midlands Zone sends its best wishes and hopes that the first ever Coventry Pride goes with a rainbow-coloured bang!

Coventry Pride takes place on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 June at Fargo Village, Coventry.



‘Drop the Label’ at this year’s Warwickshire Pride



Saturday 4 July

Pump Room Gardens, Leamington Spa

warwickshirepride.co.uk

The community-focused Warwickshire Pride is this year taking the theme ‘Drop the Label’.

Expect plenty to see and do on the day, with headline performers including X Factor star Wagner and the up-and-coming Bradley Hunt. As usual there be a host of stalls around which to browse, where visitors can pick up a bargain or two and plenty of information about community projects.
Warwickshire Pride also features a pamper area, youth area, trans area and a funfair.

Warwickshire Pride takes place on Saturday 4 July at Leamington Spa’s Pump Room Gardens.

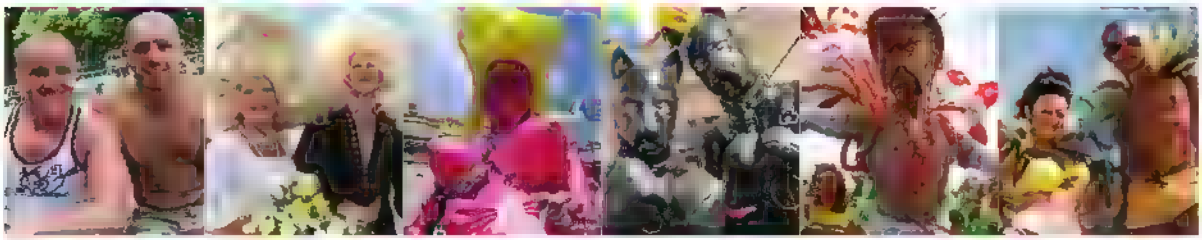
gayfamily
Family Pride
Bringing Families Together
7th - 10th AUG
Activities and Workshops
■ Animal Corner ■ Pizza Making
■ The Cuddly Bear
■ Muffin Making ■ Cake Decorating
■ Brainimaniac Science ■ Eastnor Pottery
■ Bezerkaz Circus Skills
■ Big Drums Workshop ■ Street Dance
■ Zumba ■ Storytelling
■ Bracelets & Tiaras ■ Climbing Wall
■ Inflatable Obstacle Course
■ Fancy Dress Tent ■ UV Disco
■ Family Pride’s Got Talent
and much much more...
Live Music from
■ Tarantism ■ Kings Gambit
■ Zoe Alexander as PINK
■ Daisy Smile
■ Camp Fire Acoustics
Barnswood Scout Camp, Leek Old Road,
Rushton Spencer, Nr Leek, Staffordshire SK11 0RB
www.familyprideuk.co.uk
Call: 0121 350 9217 / 0776 669 0706
Find us on facebook

2015 UK LGBT EVENTS

celebration of all things

Here!Yay!

Here's our extensive list of UK Pride events Whichever you choose to attend, we hope you have an awesome time!



June

Bristol Bear Fiesta
Fri 5 - Sun 7 June
Bristol
bristolbears.co.uk

Oxford Pride
Sat 6 June
Gloucester Park
oxford-pride.org.uk

Blackpool Gay Pride
Sat 13 & Sun 14 June
Winter Gardens Blackpool
blackpoolpridefest.com

Gloucestershire Pride
Sat 13 June
Gloucester Park
glospride.org.uk

Cumbria Pride
Sat 20 June
Carlisle Centre
cumbriapride.org

Portsmouth Pride
Sat 20 June
Victoria Park
facebook.com/Portsmouth LGBT Pride

Beefmince - London Pride
Sat 27 & Sun 28 June
Corsair Studios, Elephant & Castle, London
picatic.com

Coventry Pride
Sat 27 & Sun 28 June
Fargo Village Coventry
facebook.com/Coventry Pride

London Pride
Sat 27 June
London
prideinlondon.org

July

Warwickshire Pride
Sat 4 July
Pump Room Gardens
warwickshirepride.co.uk

Sparkle
Fri 10 July
Sackville Gardens, Manchester
sparkle.org.uk

Bourne Free Pride
Fri 10 July
The Bandstand, Bournemouth
bournefree.co.uk

Bristol Pride
Sat 11 July
Castle Park
pridebristol.co.uk

Essex Pride
Sun 12 July
Central Park, Chelmsford
essexpride.org

Newcastle Pride
Fri 17 - Sun 19 July
Exhibition Park
northern-pride.co.uk

L Fest
Fri 17 - Mon 20 July
Uttoxeter Racecourse
Staffordshire
lfest.co.uk

Hull Pride
Sat 18 July
Baker Street, Hull
prideinhull.co.uk

Stoke On Trent Pride
Sat 18 July
Northwood Park Hanley
stokeontrentpride.org.uk

Norwich Pride
Sat 25 July
The Forum
norwichpride.co.uk

Brighton Dog Pride
Sun 26 July
Hove Recreation Ground
brightonpride.org/pride_dog_show

Chesterfield Pride
Sun 26 July
Queens Park
chesterfieldpride.co.uk

Peel Park Pink Picnic
Sun 26 July
Peel Park, Salford
peelparkpicnic.org.uk

August

Liverpool Pride
Sat 1 August
Liverpool Pier Head
liverpoolpride.co.uk

Brighton Pride
Sat 1 August
Madeira Drive/Preston Park
brighton-pride.org

Leeds Pride
Sun 2 August
Lower Briggate
leedspride.com

Family Pride
Fri 7 August
Bamswood Scout Camp, Leek, Staffordshire
familypride.co.uk

Swindon & Wiltshire Pride
Sat 8 August
Town Gardens Quarry Rd
swindonwiltshirepride.co.uk

Wakefield Pride
Sun 9 August
Warren Gate
wakefieldpride.org

Bicon Convention
Thurs 13 - Sun 16 August
Nottingham University Park Campus
2015.bicon.org.uk

Cymru Pride
Sat 15 August
Coopers Fields
pridecymru.co.uk

Manchester Pride
Sat 29 August
Manchester
manchesterpride.com

Cornwall Pride
Sat 29 August
Truro Lemon Quay
cornwallpride.com

Kent Pride
Sat 29 August
Margate Main Sands
facebook.com/kentpride2015

Walsall Pride
Sat 29 August
Gallery Square
walsallpride.org

September

Leicester Pride
Sat 5 September
Victoria Park
leicesterpride.com

Reading Pride
Sat 5 September
King's Meadow Park
readingpride.co.uk

Worcester Pride
Sat 12 September
Worcester
worcesterpride.org

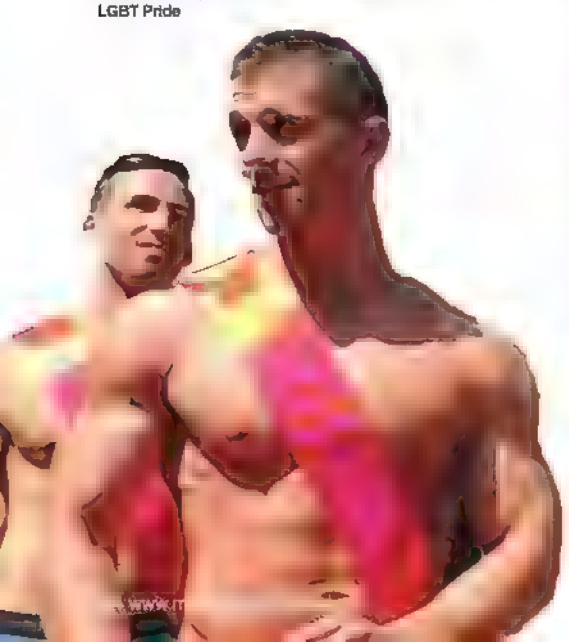
Sunderland Pride
Sat 26 September
Civic Centre, Sunderland
sunderlandpride.com

Lincoln Pride
Sun 27 September
City Square
lincolnpride.co.uk

October

Chester Pride
Sat 3 October
Castle Square
chesterpride.co.uk

Rainbow Film Festival
Fri 16 - Sun 18 October
Old Music Hall & The Hive, Shrewsbury
rainbowfestival.org.uk



NOLANS ZONE
WISH EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY PRIDE

PICTURE SPECIAL

birmingham pride 2019

FREEDOM
Together United

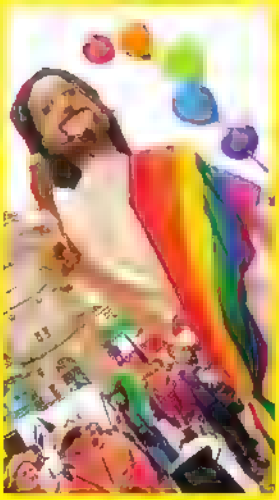
OVER 100 PHOTOS!

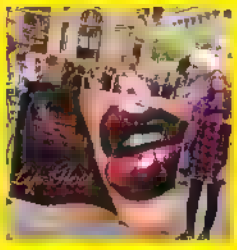
THE BIGGEST BIRMINGHAM PRIDE EVER!

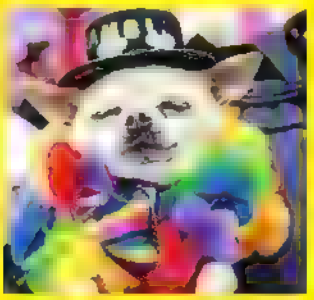
DID YOU KNOW? OVER 75,000 PEOPLE LINED THE STREETS OF BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE FOR THE CARNIVAL PARADE, KICKSTARTING THE FESTIVAL IN STYLE!

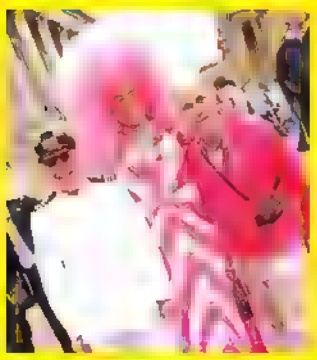
OUT
AGAINST
AUSTERITY

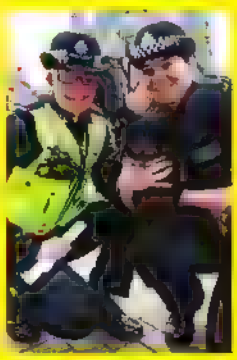
THE #FREEDOM - TOGETHER UNITED CARNIVAL PARADE

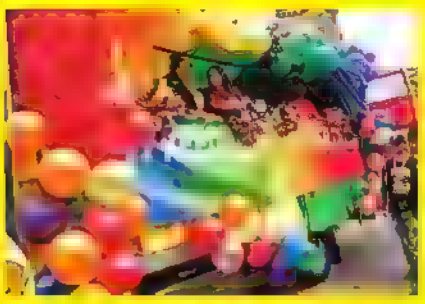










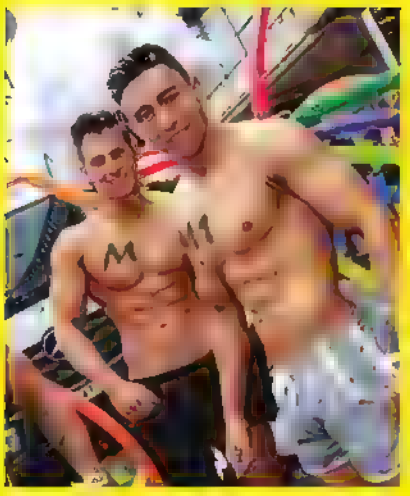


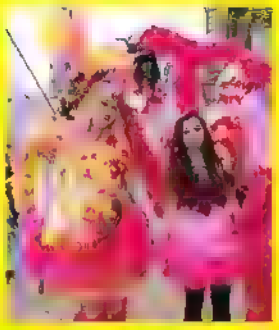
pride

14 PAGE PICTURE SPECIAL

Kick-starting Birmingham Pride 2015 off with a bang was the vibrant and colourful Carnival Parade, with this year's theme being #Freedom - Together United. Over 75,000 people saw it make it's way around the city to the Gay Village

THE #FREEDOM - TOGETHER UNITED CARNIVAL PARADE





pride

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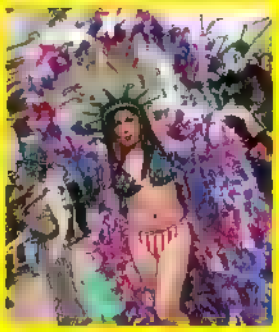
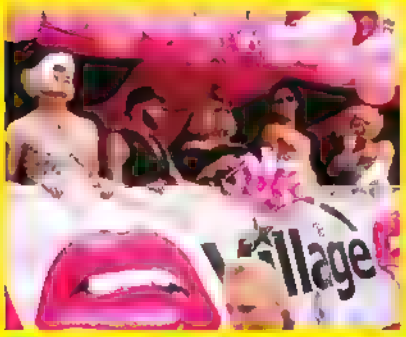
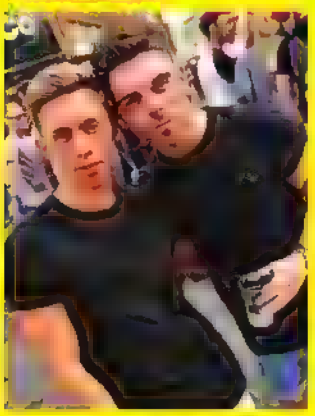
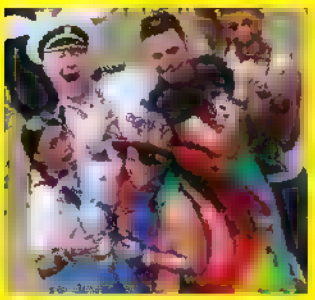
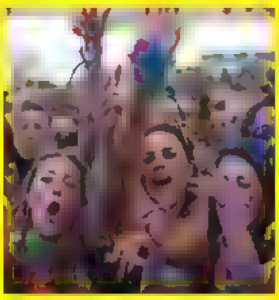


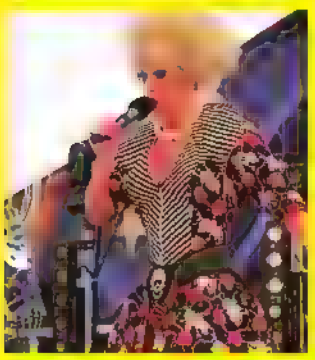


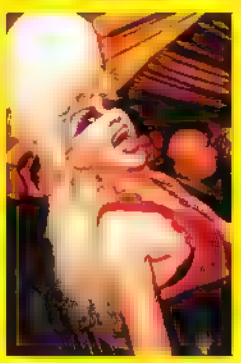
AROUND THE GAY VILLAGE











The Chic Dance Arena

14 PAGE PICTURE SPECIAL

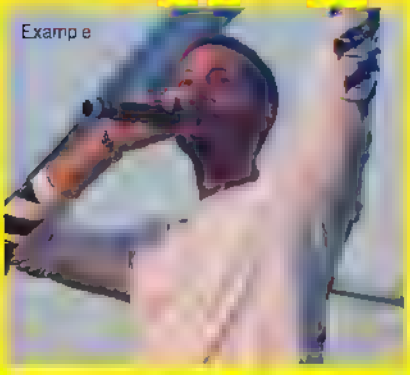
Whilst there was plenty to see and do in and around the entertainment arenas of B rmingham Pride the atmosphere was e ectric throughout B rmingham s v brant gay village! You know how to have a good time, that s for sure!

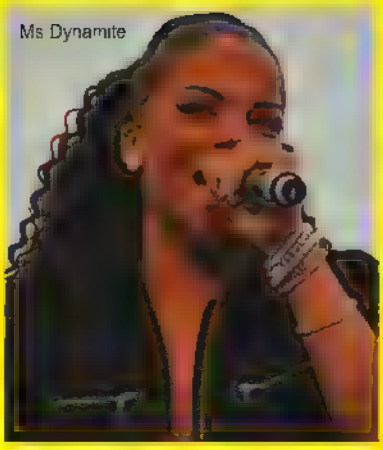
The G Dance Arena

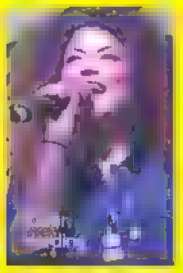
The Village Inn Cabaret Marquee

The Nightingale Main Stage

THE MAIN STAGE

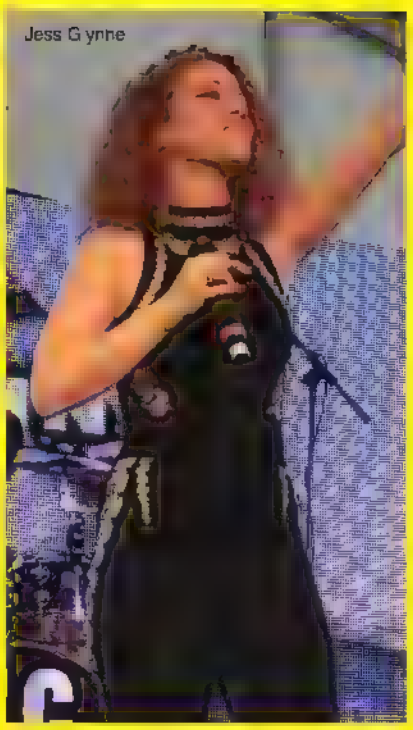


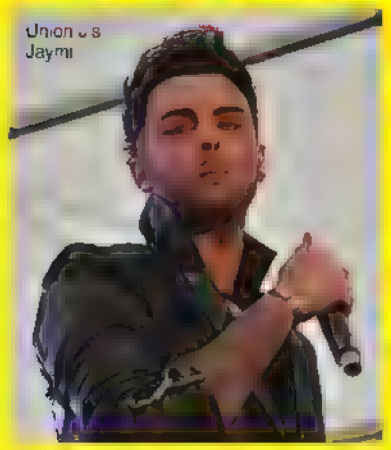




Boney M

Gogglebox s
Stephen & Chris

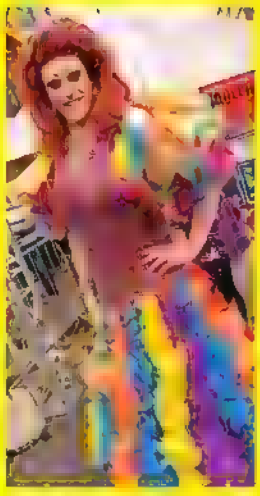

Jess G ynne

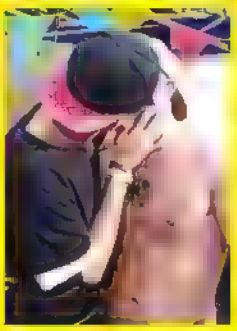

Jaymi

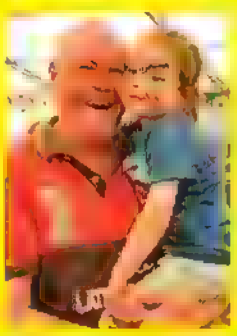
Stereo Kicks

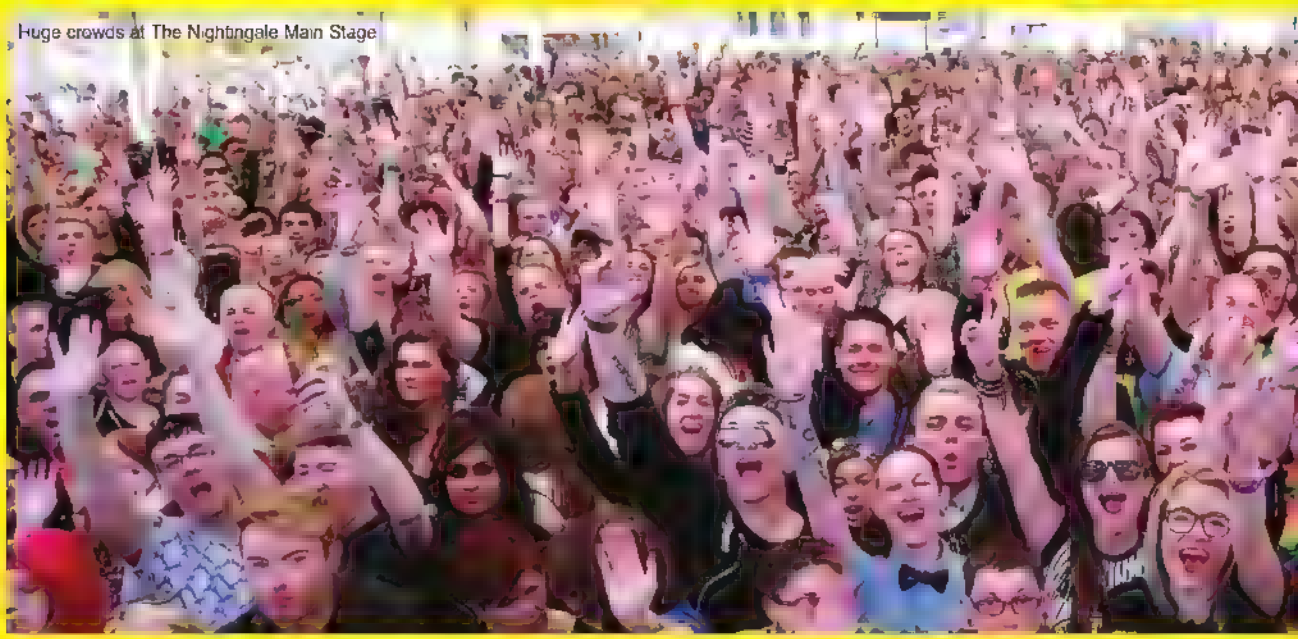
AROUND THE GAY VILLAGE

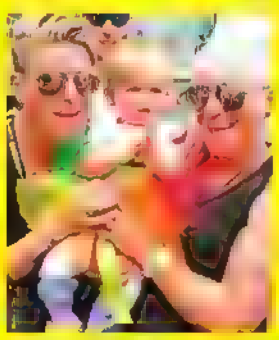
The Fox Women's Arena







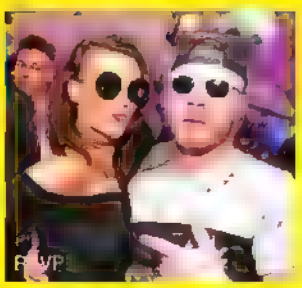

Huge crowds at The Nightingale Main Stage

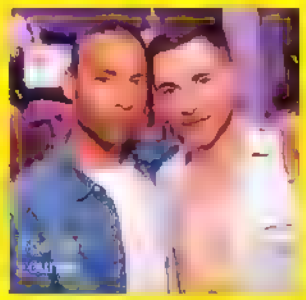


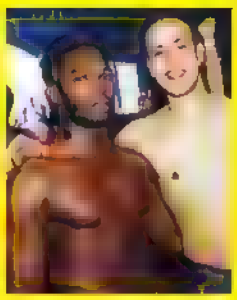
pride

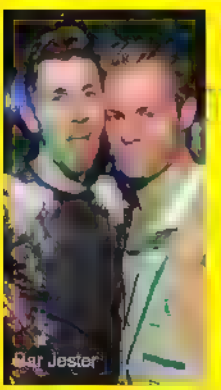
14 PAGE PICTURE SPECIAL

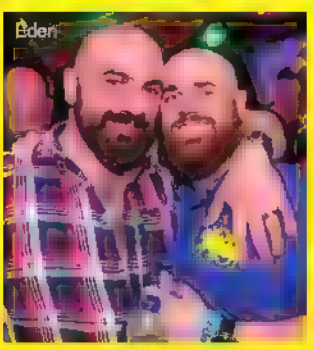
PRIDE AT NIGHT

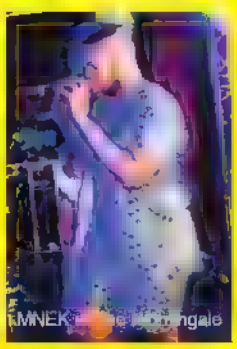












Pictures by Clive Padden Laura Byrne, Kal Ahmed Jane Williams Nick Hynan, Antony Collins, Fox & Squirrel Photography and Ryan Humphreys

BIRMINGHAM pride

SAT 28 & SUN 29 MAY 2016

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[redacted]
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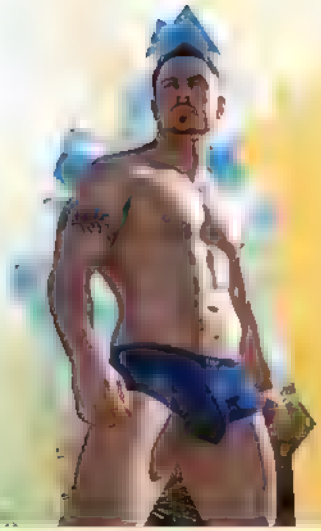

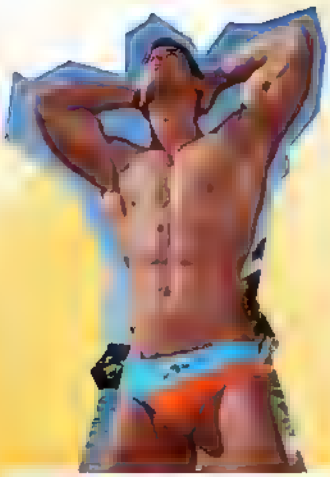

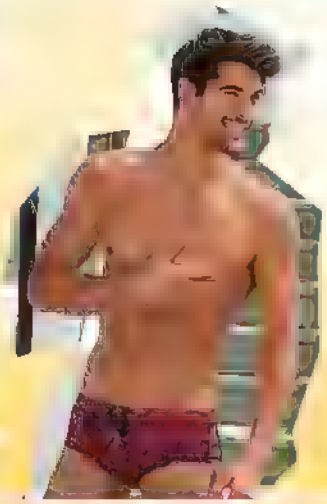

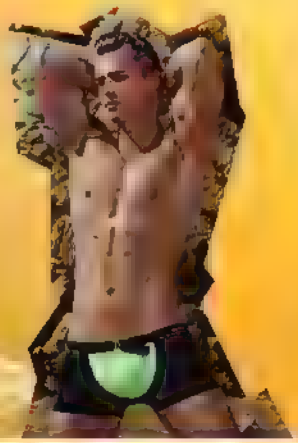

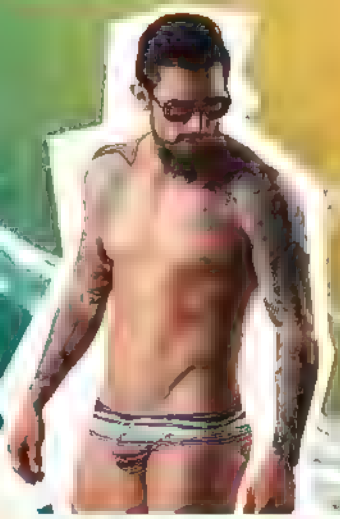

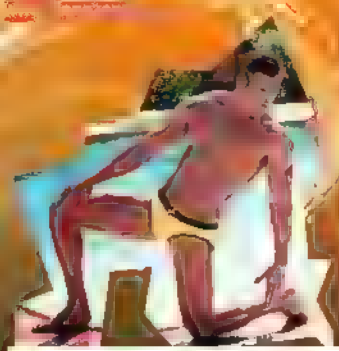

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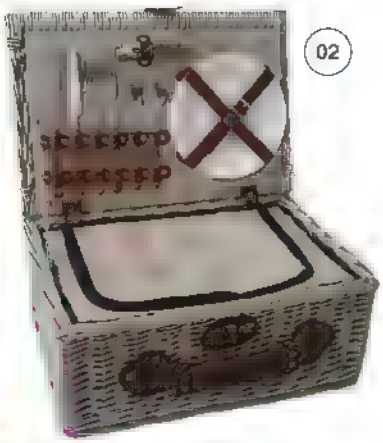
01

AL FRESCO

OUTDOOR EATING AT ITS BEST



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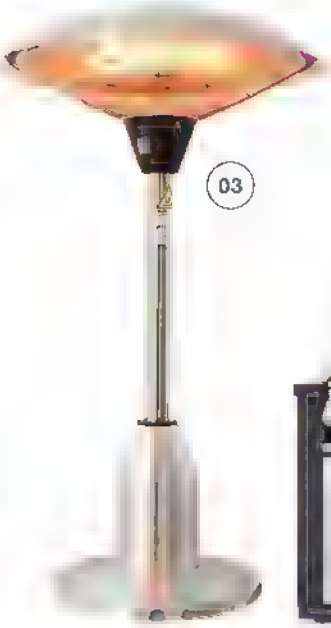

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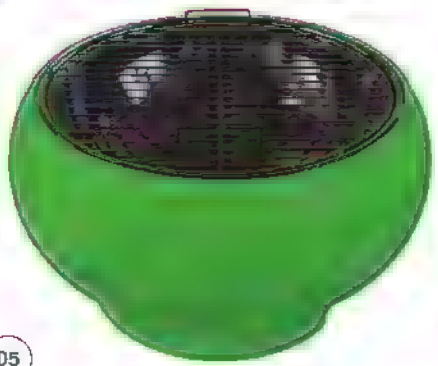

04

05

01 Outdoor Dining Set
Large outdoor dining sets are weaved in a beautiful black rattan. With six relaxing armchairs - complete with cream seat and back cushions to help you wind down on those sunny afternoons - and a rectangle dining table with a unique storage centre, perfect for storing your tableware.
£1349.00
alexander-francis.co.uk

02 Two Person Chiller Hamper
Enjoy balmy spring and summer days in the countryside with this lovely Two Person Chiller Hamper from Willow Direct. Crafted from antique grey willow with tan faux leather trim and a zipped chilled compartment.
£49.00
www.cotswoldtrading.com

03 Table Top Patio Heater
Living it Up's table-top halogen heater will comfortably sit on any patio, deck, or even outdoor table. Features • 900 / 1200 / 2100 watts (3 positions) • Element lifespan (5000 hours) • Heats the body, not the air.
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www.livingitup.co.uk

04 Supagrill - Tabletop Pod BBQ
This is a beautiful table-top barbecue for anyone who wants to merge style with grilling. Made from heat proof, water-resistant material, it lets you enjoy the beauty and strength of shaped ceramic stone without struggling with the weight.
£99.99
www.whitestores.co.uk

05 Artisan 3000 Outdoor Kitchen with Sink and Fridge
Made from quality stainless steel, you can enjoy alfresco cooking and dining at its finest. This beauty features a four-burner barbecue with side burner, and cabinets with the kitchen sink & fridge module.
£5489.00
www.whitestores.co.uk

The Car Man

Having scored a hit with an all-male version of Swan Lake many a year back, Matthew Bourne's New Adventures company has since produced a variety of other highly acclaimed and innovative works, not least among which is The Car Man.

Loosely based on Bizet's popular opera, Carmen, it features one of the company's most thrilling and instantly recognisable scores.

The familiar 19th century Spanish cigarette factory becomes a greasy garage-diner in 1960s America, where the dreams and passions of a small town are shattered by the arrival of a handsome stranger.

The Curve Theatre, Leicester
Tue 19 June - Sat 20 June

At Ease

At Ease tells the story of a man imprisoned for attempted murder, and of the correspondence he undertakes with actor, politician and gay activist Michael Cashman, whom he'd also threatened to kill. Playwright Rod Dungate uses correspondence, interviews and newspaper articles to set out an extraordinary tale of one man's personal journey to redemption, the darkest places and the most beautiful places in humankind.

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 17 - Sat 20 June

Birdsong

Sebastian Faulks' epic and bestselling novel is set both before and during the Great War. It follows the fortunes of the young Stephen Wraysford as he embarks on a passionate and dangerous affair with the beautiful Isabelle Azaire.

This stage version, presented by Original Theatre Company and Birdsong Productions, has garnered plenty of praise following tours in both 2013 and '14. It was written by Rachel Wagstaff, who claims she got the nod from Faulks to adapt his novel after she impressed him by knowing the most recent result of his football team.

For the record, Faulks is a West Ham fan. Just like Aston Villa supporter David Cameron, then...

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 22 - Sat 27 June

John Legend

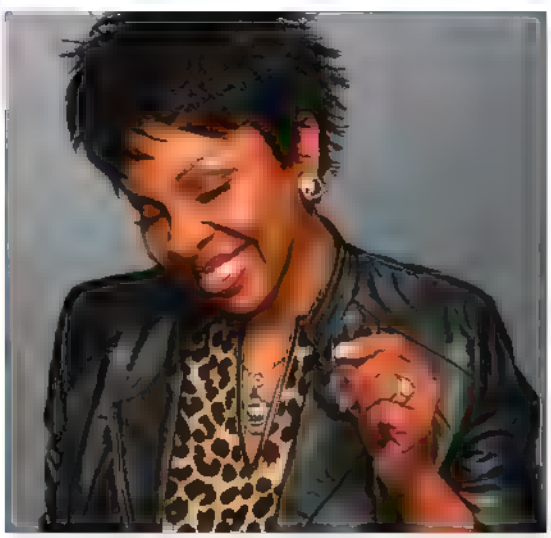
[illegible] last month: "Frankly, more white people!

Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Fri 26 June

Counting Crows

Scruffy seven-piece San Francisco rockers Counting Crows are best known for Shrek 2's feelgood hit, Accidently In Love, and 2002's Big Yellow Taxi. They've sold more than twenty million albums worldwide since exploding on to the music scene back in the early 1990s, and are here presenting material from forthcoming and seventh studio album Somewhere Under Wonderland. The album is the band's first original recording since Saturday Nights & Sunday Mornings in 2008.

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Wed 10 June



Gladys Knight

Empress of Soul Gladys Knight shot to stardom way back in the 1960s, becoming one of the biggest names on the legendary Motown record label as she enjoyed hit after soaraway hit with long-time singing group The Pips.

Nearly a half century after joining Motown – and with forty albums and seven Grammy Awards to her name – her place in music history is assured. Memorable numbers include Midnight Train To Georgia, Help Me Make It Through The Night, Licence To Kill (the official theme song to the James Bond film), The Way We Were, Baby Don't Change Your Mind and You're The Best Thing (That Ever Happened To Me). She plays Symphony Hall as part of her first UK tour in six years.

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 28 June

Jurassic Park CERT 12a

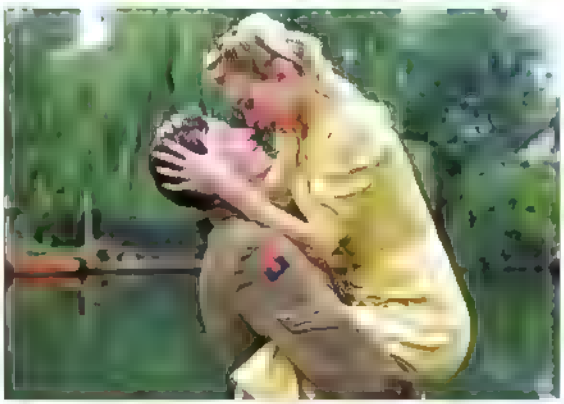
Starring **Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, Ty Simpkins, Nick Robinson, Irrfan Khan, Vicent D'Onofrio, Jake Johnson, Omar Sy** Directed by **Colin Trevorrow (USA)**

With a budget estimated to be in the $150-180 million range (or higher), Jurassic World is the continuing story of the Costa Rica theme park a somewhat different place than it was twenty two years ago However, in spite of everything now running smoothly, visitor rates have declined. So, in an effort to sex the place up, the Masrani Global Corporation decides to create a hybrid dinosaur, the Indominus Rex. Of course, it's all a terrible mistake... Word has it that Steven Spielberg along with the screenwriter Mark Protosevich came up with a story idea for the film, but it was rejected. However, to honour Spielberg, director Trevorrow introduced sharks as scrummy morsels for the dinosaurs. Out 12 June

The Longest Ride CERT 12a (128 mins)

Starring **Scott Eastwood, Britt Robertson, Jack Huston, Oona Chaplin, Alan Alda** Directed by **George Tillman Jr (USA)**

The romantic novelist Nicholas Sparks has become a one-man franchise. The Longest Ride is the tenth adaptation of a Sparks novel in sixteen years. Here, Clint's son plays Luke Collins a former bull rider aiming to make a comeback when his life is complicated by the romantic revelations of an old man (Alda) Out 19 June



Queen And Country CERT tbc

Starring **Callum Turner, Vanessa Kirby, David Thewlis, Richard E. Grant, Caleb Landry Jones, Tamsin Egerton** Directed by **John Boorman (Ireland/France/Romania)**

At the age of 82, the celebrated British director John Boorman brings us a sequel to his 1987 drama Hope and Glory. Here, it's ten years after the events of the first film and Boorman's alter ego Bill Rohan (Turner) is called up for National Service in the shadow of the Korean War. Still, an 18-year-old lad needs a girl ..

Out 5 June

Insidious Chapter 3

CERT 15 (98 mins)

Starring **Dermot Mulroney, Stefanie Scott, Angus Sampson, Leigh Whannell, Lin Shaye**

Directed by **Leigh Whannell (USA)**

As the second outing in this horror franchise received a somewhat lukewarm reception, the films producers (also behind the Paranormal Activity films) have opted for a prequel this time round. So the psychic Elise Rainier (Shaye) finds herself reluctantly aiding a teenage girl badgered by a malevolent supernatural entity. Shiver our timbers.

Out 5 June

Spy CERT 15 (120 mins)

Starring **Melissa McCarthy, Jason Statham, Jude Law, Rose Byrne, Miranda Hart**

Directed by **Paul Feig (USA)**

Director Paul Feig made a star of Melissa McCarthy in Bridesmaids and The Heat and now casts her as CIA analyst Susan Cooper. When two of Susan's colleagues are in trouble she volunteers to go undercover so as to avert global catastrophe. Good ol' Susan

Out 5 June

DVDs

Boys In Brazil (12)

It's time for gay pride in Brazil's São Paulo - which means sun, sex and a generous helping of fabulous flamboyance on the side! But when a group of closeted gay men come face to face with homophobic abuse, they decide to make a solemn pact - they all have until the following year's parade to come out once and for all! A humorous, vibrant, sexy film boasting more than a dash of South American-style melodramatic flare. Boys In Brazil is a boldly rendered statement on what we all gain when we demand respect and acceptance.

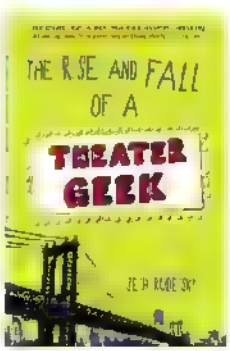
Appropriate Behaviour (15)

For Shirin, being part of a perfect family isn't easy. Acceptance eludes her from all sides. Her family doesn't know she's bisexual, and ex-girlfriend Maxine can't understand why she doesn't tell them. Even the six-year-old boys in her moviemaking class are too ADD to focus on her for more than a second. Following a family announcement of her brother's betrothal to a parentally approved, 'prize catch' Iranian, Shirin embarks on a private rebellion involving a series of escapades - at the same time trying to decipher what went wrong with Maxine.

...and something to read

The Rise And Fall Of A Theater Geek

Seth Rudetsky



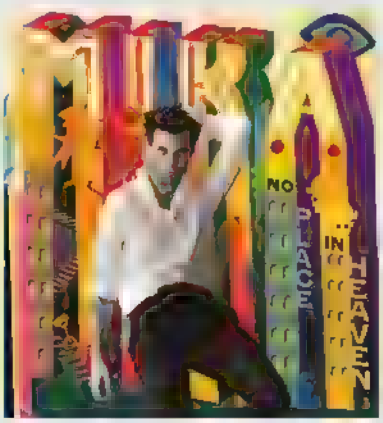
Broadway. New York. The shows, the neon lights .. the cute chorus boys! It's where Justin has always wanted to be - and now, with a winter internship for a famous actor, he finally has his chance to shine. If only he could ditch his kind, virtuous upright, and - dare he say it? - uptight boyfriend, Spencer. But once the internship begins, Justin has more to worry about than a cramped single-guy-in-the-city style. Justin's tap-dancing as fast as he can, but all his wit and sass might not be enough to switch his time in New York from nightmare-terrible to dream-come-true terrific.

New Music

Peace Is The Mission

Major Lazer

Major Lazer's much-anticipated new album features the runaway hit Lean On, as well as awesome collaborations with Ellie Goulding, 2 Chainz, Ariana Grande and more!



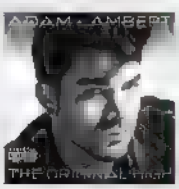
No Place In Heaven

Mika

This new album beautifully exhibits Mika's incredible songwriting talents and breathtaking vocals, evoking memories of classic 1970s pop hits along the way. The deluxe edition has four bonus tracks too!

The Original High

Adam Lambert



This latest effort from Adam Lambert features a style best described as pop with influences of dance, house and funk. The album was preceded earlier this year by the single, Ghost Town

WIN!

WIN! Four pairs of Sukrew Swimwear!

Here at Midlands Zone we can just about smell the summer air - so we're getting ready to jet off on holiday for a bit of relaxation. And no doubt you are too!

Holidays mean warm beaches, cool seas and plenty of partying but have you got your swimwear sorted out?

If not, the lovely team at Sukrew are here to rescue you. They've teamed up with Zone to give away their sexy new swimwear to four lucky readers

Keeping it simple, Sukrew have designed two fantastic new styles of swimwear the trunk and the brief They're simple and stylish with a cut that's designed to enhance your package They even come with a handy drawstring bag in which to carry them back from the beach once you're done

Both styles come in four colours - pink, navy, yellow and black so there's plenty of choice!

For your chance to win a pair of Sukrew swimwear (worth £29.99), visit www.midlandszone.co.uk and answer the following question

What type of swimwear does Tom Daley often wear when diving?

A) Brief
B) Board Shorts
C) Thong

Good luck!

Enter this great competition online at www.midlandszone.co.uk before Wednesday 24 June

Do you think you have a drink problem?
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ALCOHOL LGBT SUPPORT GROUP

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR LOCAL GAY VENUES

SCENE

JUNE 2015

WILLAM

THE 'BOY IS A BOTTOM' STAR HITS BIRMINGHAM

PLUS

LA VOIX AT EDEN

YOUR DISCO NEEDS YOU

Birmingham's Missing Bar reinvents the 70s Saturday night out'

CABARET FUN

The UK's cabaret hotspot returns! Drag queens galore in the Midlands!

MEN-ONLY NIGHT XXL RETURNS

The award-winning monthly men's night out returns to Birmingham's Core Club...

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just got BIGGER!

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MISS MARTY
EVERY MONDAY

PLAY ALONG WITH MARTY...
QUICK FIRE BINGO PARTY GAMES & GIVEAWAYS GALORE FROM 10PM!

FREE ENTRY BEFORE MIDNIGHT!
10PM - 3AM

Fabulous

Join Birmingham's award-winning Marty -
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EVERY MONDAY from 10pm

MONDAY 1 JUNE
GLITTER LIPS

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Happy Hour from 10pm
PLUS drinks from £1 ALL NIGHT!

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Buy 2 Large glasses of House Wine and get the rest of the bottle free!

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C:21

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GLITTER LIPS

Monday nights at C 21 in Shrewsbury is one of the biggest gay n ghts in the West Midlands. The first Monday of every month sees the popu.ar venue hosting live cabaret, with May's spot being fil ed by award-winning drag duo, Glitter Lips!
Not only that, every Monday night throughout the month sees Marty, the girl who likes to party, take to the stage for fun and games!

BIRMINGHAM

2-FOR-1 COCKTAILS
AT BRUM BAR

When you've finished work for the day, instead of heading straight home, why not pop into The Loft Lounge in Birmingham for a cheeky cocktail or two? Selected cocktails are two-for-one all day and night between Sunday and Friday! Boooom!
THE LOFT LOUNGE - BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

MINISTRY OF POUND with Du Mike Emery from 9pm Selected drinks £1 Open until 2am.
MISSING BAR

PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT
with Mrs M lls and Du Deano Cash prizes and free drinks Happy Hour 12noon-10pm
THE VILLAGE INN

POUNDED Come and get Pounded from 6pm onwards. £1

IT'S THE MINISTRY OF POUND AT MISSING!

Birmingham's popular Missing Bar on Hurst Street brings you Pounded each and every Monday. From 9pm onwards, you can get your hands on selected drinks from £1. Spirits, beer, bottles - you name it, it's on offer!
MISSING - BIRMINGHAM

on selected spirits. £1.50 Jagerbomb / Carling / Strongbow Sambucca

SUGAR RUSH £2 entry drinks from £2 various Dus

MONDAY MADNESS Weekly dr nk

BAR JESTER

OUTSKIRTS
1st & 3rd Monday mon

BAR JESTER

WEST MIDLANDS

FABULOUS Fun & Games with resident host Marty (The girl who likes to party) *Mon 4 May* - Live cabaret with drag duo Glitter Lips Free admission before midnight and just £3 after. Great drinks offers all night long with drinks starting at just £1!
C:21, SHREWSBURY

THE MONDAY CLUB 9pm-5am Student night Everything is £2 (Shots £1) with DJ Lee Edward.
GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

CHILLAX and Free Poo wr

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

CHILL NIGHT with Ka
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

GET THE PARTY STARTED
admission With DJ Foxy Divin
Open 9pm-4a
GOSSIP, STOKE ON TRENT

STUDENT NIGHT Free
ll drinks t
PINK, STOKE ON TRENT

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 Open from 2pm til 2am
jet drink n a friend

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

DISCO 7pm-midnigh

TACKY TUESDAYS

Birmingham gay scene favourites Miss Penny and Charlotte the Harlotte offer a night of fun and games every Tuesday at The Village Inn. Boasting laughs and prizes galore, it's a perfect way to get rid of any start-of-the-week blues you may be suffering!
Go on, pop in and say hello!

90'S NIGHT - Every Tuesday night 10.30pm-3am
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

TAKE A TRIP BACK IN TIME WITH '90s NIGHT

The 1990s - the decade when we were introduced to the Spice Girls and many more fantastic pop groups.
Re-live it by heading to The Nightingale's '90s night.
You'll love it for sure!
THE NIGHTINGALE - BIRMINGHAM

KARAOKE TIME AT MISSING BAR

Everyone loves a bit of karaoke in their lives - so head to Missing Bar in Birmingham and join DJ James from 9pm till late. Whether you're good or bad at singing, it's great fun - so go on, grab the mic!
MISSING - BIRMINGHAM

MISSING KARAOKE With your host

DJ James. Party starts at 9pm til late
MISSING BAR

2 MEALS FOR £10

If you're peckish, head down to Sidewalk in Birmingham. They have a cracking 'two meals for a tenner' menu - great for you and a mate to enjoy, setting you up for a top night on the town. We've tried it and it's fab!

TACKY TUESDAYS with Charlotte and Miss Penny Songs Games & Prizes Happy Hour 12noon-10pm
THE VILLAGE INN

TUNE UP TUESDAY

NOTTINGHAM STUDENT NIGHT

THE LION BAR & CLUB, WALSALL

CAMP QUIZ With free buffet Qu
arts
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

DIVERSITY Weekly gay
VELVET, WORCESTER

FLAUNT
BREWERY TAP, WORCESTER

SAMMIE'S SINGERS Kar
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

TWISTED TUESDAYS

2 TILL 2
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

CHILL OUT NIGHT
night
NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

GAMES NIGHT
Nintendo W
DOVER CASTLE, LEICESTER

Wednesdays are 2 GOOD 2 MISS at Missing Bar in Brum

Missing Bar in Birmingham certainly knows how to throw an awesome party, regardless of which day of the week it is! Pop in for a night of midweek fun, great tunes and cheap drinks in the company of DJ Mike Emery and the rest of the venue's team. It may be a school night, but a cheeky drink or two won't hurt, will it? We'll be seeing you on the dancefloor!

MISSING - BIRMINGHAM

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Shake your tail feathers at Sidewalks new 2 for 1 cocktail menu.
SIDEWALK

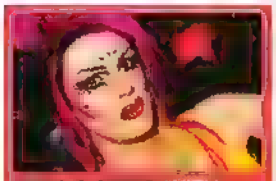
2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

2 GOOD 2 MISS Drinks from just £2 with DJ Mike Emery

IT'S COCKTAIL TIME AT THE LOFT LOUNGE!

Rather than heading out for a pint or a double vodka and coke, why not opt for a cocktail? Or better still, how about two? The Loft Lounge in Birmingham is offering two gorgeous cocktails for the price of one! If you're hungry, why not grab a bite to eat as well?

THE LOFT LOUNGE - BIRMINGHAM



WITH CHARLOTTE!

Pop along to [illegible] Village Inn and show off your karaoke skills to Charlotte the Harlotte and DJ Deano. You may not walk away with a million pound recording contract, but you can walk away with a sense of pride!

THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM

C FACTOR - with Charlotte the Harlotte
THE VILLAGE INN

DADDY'S DEALS AND FREE POOL
THE FOX

WACKY WEDNESDAYS Hosted by Katie James with [illegible] until 2am. Open 10pm
BAR JESTER

WEDNESDAY LINE [illegible] every week.
THE WELLINGTON

WEST MIDLANDS

[illegible]
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

WACKY WEDNESDAYS Karaoke [illegible]
RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

EAST MIDLANDS

GAMES NIGHT Free Pool [illegible] pm
NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

KARAOKE 9pm - 3am £[illegible]
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

OUT [illegible] Students £1 drinks until [illegible]
NG1, NOTTINGHAM

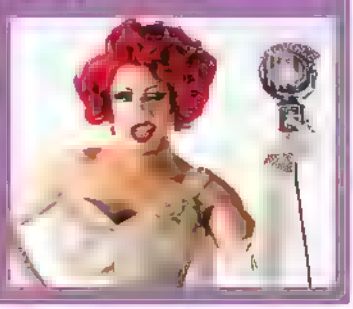
GAMES NIGHT AT THE NEW FORESTERS

If you're looking for something to do in Nottingham on a Wednesday night, then head down to The New Foresters for free pool and cheap drink!

THE NEW FORESTERS - NOTTS

LA VOIX [illegible] at Birmingham's Eden Bar

Fans of popular drag artist La Voix are in for a treat this month, as she appears at award-winning Birmingham gay bar Eden not once but twice! The Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist will be live on stage in the Eden Marquee on Thursday 4 and 25 June. Make sure you catch both shows!



BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

CULT Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

DJ DEANO On the decks. Happy Hour 12noon-2am
THE VILLAGE INN

LA VOIX *Thurs 4 & 25 June* Live cabaret with Britain's Got Talent star La Voix. She's back - you can never have too much of a good thing!
EDEN

DROP THE BOMB start of your weekend. £1.50 on all bombs (excluding the Gutterbomb) with our resident DJ Rowan
[illegible]

I <3 THE 90S with DJ Dan. Open from 6pm
EDEN BAR

MISS MARTY'S MADHOUSE Songs, Games and Happy Hour until 2am. With Miss Marty and DJ Deano
THE VILLAGE INN

GET POUNDED

Every Thursday at The Nightingale sees the students of Birmingham's gay scene head down for the biggest party in the city. Cheap drinks and £5 entry is a great start to this incredible night out!

POUNDED £5 entry. Drinks from a £1. DJ Corey playing chart, dance and urban on Ground Floor. Miss Marty and DJ Craig with all the pop and cheese you could ask for on the middle floor
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

SHOT EXCHANGE Keep your eyes on the screens as demand can push drinks prices up and down, random market crashes will have the prices plummeting but the low prices don't stay around for long.
THE CORE

THROWBACK THURSDAY £1.20 bombs. With DJ Mykee
MISSING BAR

DJ DADDY'S DOLLAR KARAOKE Drinks from £1
THE FOX

PARTY POP Poptastic tunage with DJ Matt. Happy Hour until 2am. Open 9pm until very late
BAR JESTER

WEST MIDLANDS

MAD COW Get mooovin' and [illegible] element. DJ on [illegible]
GORGEOUS, WOLVES

CAMP KARAOKE and cabaret with [illegible]
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

THE KARAOKE LOUNGE Free entry [illegible] with DJ Zac
THE LION, WALSALL

GET OUT with DJ T[illegible]
THE BELL, STOURBRIDGE

MOSES MADNESS A[illegible]
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 Open from 2pm til 2[illegible]

XXL brings all the bears in the land in Birmingham!

Every third Friday of the month sees the Midlands biggest men-only night take place at The Core in Birmingham. Join DJ Christian M for a great night out with the men of the Midlands on Friday the 19th.

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

ALL DAY EVERY DAY PRICES DJ Parm takes over the weekend by playing the best of club classics house, R&B and all your favourites. Enjoy all day every day prices too!
Sidewalk

DJ JAMES HOSTS A NIGHT OF PARTY TUNES

Every Friday sees Birmingham's Missing Bar hosting a night of party anthems. Join DJ James from 9pm till late and blast out some of your favourite songs over the speakers! Don't forget - there are great drinks offers too!
MISSING - BIRMINGHAM

BIG GAY FRIDAY Party anthems all night long with Missing's DJ James. Open until the early hours
Missing Bar

KARAOKE TIME AT EDEN WITH DJ NIKKI

If you fancy a sing-song whilst you're out for the night, then head to Eden Bar in Birmingham's Gay Village every Friday night. DJ Nikki is on hand with a big book of songs, a microphone and an audience! Go on, you know you want to!
EDEN - BIRMINGHAM

DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikki
Eden Bar

FREAKY FRIDAY with DJ Lotty. Big name cabaret at midnight. Open until 6am. *Fri 5 June* Miss Penny. *Fri 12 June* Kruger Sisters. *Fri 19 June* Titti La Camp. *Fri 26 June* Sandra
The Village Inn

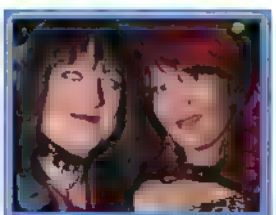
INFUSION Free Entry. Absolute Anthems and Floor Fillers with DJ Corey. Drinks from £2. Admission £2
Nightingale Club

KICK START Kick start the week end from 9pm till the early hours. Hosted by James
Missing Bar

INFUSION

Join DJ Corey every Friday night for Infusion. Corey will be playing the best anthems and floorfillers on the scene. Drinks are from £2 all night long - and it's £2 entry all night long too!

L8R With Charlotte the Harlotte. Open until 6am every Friday
The Village Inn



LIP GLOSS

The first Friday of every month (5 June) sees Birmingham's trans* community, their friends and admirers come together for a night of fun at the city's popular Eden Bar! So grab a friend and pop along for a fun night!

LIP GLOSS - *Fri 5 June* - With new host Miss Penny. Live entertainment from Sam Buca and stripper Extreme
Eden Bar

MIDSBEARS - *Fri 19 June* - Monthly meet up and social group for Bears and Admirers
Eden Bar

OLD SKOOL GARAGE The first Friday of the month sees the Nightingale go back in time, playing some of the best in old skool garage. A night not to be missed
Nightingale Club

MIDSBEAR MEET-UP AT EDEN BAR

Friday 19 June sees the monthly Midsbears meet-up take place at Birmingham's Eden Bar. If you've not been before, it's a monthly social group for Bears and their admirers. It's a great night out, so be sure to pop along!
EDEN - BIRMINGHAM

SAATHI - *Fri 26 June* - Every last Friday monthly. South Asian Gay and Lesbian club night. Bollywood and Bhangra
Nightingale Club

SING STAR SUPERSTAR with DJ Nikki every Friday - your chance to win cash
Eden Bar

VINTAGE FRIDAYS AT THE LOFT LOUNGE

If you're into a bit of old school music, head down to The Loft Lounge in Birmingham every Friday night for a hot helping of Motown, Northern Soul, funk, rock and all of your classic favourites.
THE LOFT LOUNGE - BIRMINGHAM

VINTAGE FRIDAYS a night of soul, funk, rock, motown, Northern Soul and all the classic favourites
The Loft Lounge

XXL - *Fri 19 June* - Men only night with DJ Christian M. Early Bear offers until 11pm. Every 3rd Friday of each month.
The Core Club

FUNK'D UP
[illegible] 8am £5 | 2am £8 after
Club Chic

KARAOKE
The Fox

RHYTHM FRIDAY
DJ Matt Hep[illegible]
Bar Jester

WEST MIDLANDS

LUSH & YOLO'
D[illegible]
Gorgeous Club, Wolverhampton

TV PARTY NIGHT A M[illegible]
'Ol' TV's. C'[illegible]
Admirers. Every F[illegible]
The Greenhouse, Darlaston

BANG The big weekend party. Classics House. Free entry b4 11pm
The Lion, Walsall

CLUB NIGHT D[illegible]
The Three Furnaces, Telford

FREE ENTRY FRIDAYS [illegible]
Raindows, Coventry

FRIDAY SOCIAL [illegible]
The Bell, Stourbridge

KARAOKE with D[illegible]
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

START THE WEEKEND [illegible]
Fink, Stoke on Trent

TFI FRIDAY A fun and f[illegible]
Brewery Tap, Worcester

EAST MIDLANDS

CLUB NIGHT with DJ R[illegible]
Helsinki, Leicester

PINK POUNDER Every Friday nig[illegible] with DJ Craig T. £8 entry, £1 drin[illegible]
The Boston, Northampton

VALUE FRIDAY Disco 9pm-4a[illegible]
New Foresters, Nottingham

LIFE IS A CABARET at Birmingham's Village Inn!

If you're out on a Friday night and looking for some great entertainment, then look no further than Birmingham's award-winning Village Inn. June sees four great acts take to the stage. Kicking off the month's line-up is local legend Miss Penny on Friday the 5th, whilst the following week sees the Kruger sisters dropping in to say hi. Titti La Camp gives it her all on Friday the 19th and gearing you up for pay weekend on Friday the 26th, it's Sandra.

RuPaul's Drag Race star **WILLAM** heads to Brum!

Following the success of the RuPaul's Drag Race stars, Birmingham gay superclub The Nightingale is this month playing host to yet another live PA. Star of viral hit video Boy is A Bottom, the one and only William will be live on stage at the venue on Saturday 13 June! Tickets are on sale now at www.theticketsellers.co.uk - but grab them quick 'cause we think it's gonna be a sell out!

BIRMINGHAM

DJ DAN TAKES YOU BACK TO THE '80s

If you fancy turning back the clock thirty-odd years, then head down to Eden Bar in Birmingham, where DJ Dan takes it back to the 1980s. Expect some of the biggest tunes from the decade, not to mention cheap drinks promotions! EDEN - BIRMINGHAM

80S HITS with DJ Dan from 2am. It's back to the 80s with cheap drink promotions
Eden Bar

THE ATTIC Available for hire. Call the venue for more info: 0121 622 4256
Missing Bar

BACK TO THE 80S 2am - 4am
Eden Bar

IT'S SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE VILLAGE INN

Saturday is without doubt the biggest night of the week at The Village Inn in Birmingham. You've got two floors of partying - and a great range of music, to boot. You'd be mad not to pop in and party the night away!
THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT Over 2 floors, 3 DJs. Open til 8am. With DJ Lotty & DJ Richard Moon. With DJ Tonie in The Village Underground
The Village Inn

BIG SATURGAY NIGHT OUT Every Saturday with loads of drinks promotions
Nightingale Club

CULT Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm.
Nightingale Club

FABULOUS SATURDAYS Get the red carpet treatment with your host and hostess Cherub and Miss

IT'S SATURGAY NIGHT AT THE NIGHTINGALE

Saturday is without doubt the biggest night of the week at The Nightingale Club in Birmingham. You've got three floors of partying, split across four great rooms of music. You'd be mad not to pop in and party the night away!
THE NIGHTINGALE - BIRMINGHAM

Hallie James, keeping you entertained with podium dances and fantastic music. Entry £5 - 10pm until 3am with the first 25 customers having FREE ENTRY
The Club Club

KARAOKE & COCKTAILS In The Attic - plus music from across the decades
Missing

STAY L8R AT BRUM'S VILLAGE INN!

Saturday is without doubt the biggest night of the week at The Village Inn in Birmingham. You've got two floors of partying - and a great range of music to boot. You'd be mad not to pop in and party the night away!
THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM

L8R With Charlotte the Harlotte. Open until 8am every Saturday
The Village Inn

THE SMITHS - *Sat 6 June* - A night of music from likes of The Smiths and Morrissey with a Panic On The Streets of Birmingham disco in the Eden Bar Marquee
Eden Bar

YOUR DISCO NEEDS YOU with DJ Mykee playing the biggest remixes, absolute anthems, dance classics, disco, house and commercial. Featuring Twiggy and sexy door boys. Open until 4am.
Missing Bar

SATURDAY SESSIONS With DJ Simon Baker from 8pm.
The Loft Lounge

SATURS-FACTION Welcome in the weekend with resident DJ, playing the best of everything
Sidewalk

SATURDAY SESSIONS WITH SIMON BAKER

Every Saturday night sees veteran DJ Simon Baker take to the decks at The Loft Lounge in Birmingham, ensuring your evening gets off to a great start. It's the perfect way to relax - or to get the party started!
THE LOFT LOUNGE - BIRMINGHAM

SWAGGERLICIOUS Every Saturday night (Room 4,
Nightingale Club

SATURS-FACTION AT BRUM'S SIDEWALK

One of Birmingham's most popular bars, Sidewalk promises a great night of top satisfaction, with resident DJ Kam playing the very best music to help you kick off your evening in style. There are great drinks offers too! SIDEWALK - BIRMINGHAM

WILLAM - *Sat 13 June* - Live PA from RuPaul's Drag Race star and Boy is A Bottom viral sensation William. Tickets from www.theticketsellers.co.uk
Nightingale Club

THE BREAKFAST CLUB Every [illegible]
Club Chic

DJ NIKKI 1st [illegible]
Equator Bar

DJ PARTY TIME!! [illegible]

The Fox

#JUST SAYING Get in the pa[illegible]
Bar Jester

KARAOKE Every Sat nig[illegible]
The Wellington

WEST MIDLANDS

CAMP & SLAG 9pm[illegible] rom £1.50 unt[illegible] 2.30am, then £3 eg
Gorgeous, Wolverhampton

BIG NIGHT OUT [illegible] ales 8pm - 3.30am. Plus viu[illegible]
The Lion, Walsall

CLUB NIGHT Drink prom[illegible] 3.45. Free entry before 10
The Three Furnaces, Telford

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT [illegible]
Rainbows, Coventry

INCLUSION with big nam[illegible] ham & UK DJs ever[illegible]
The Bell, Stourbridge

NOT TO MISS Free adm[illegible]
Pink, Stoke on Trent

EAST MIDLANDS

BIG WEEKEND PARTY NIGHT [illegible] £3 before 1am and £5 a[illegible]
The Boston, Northampton

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT - [illegible]
NG1, Nottingham

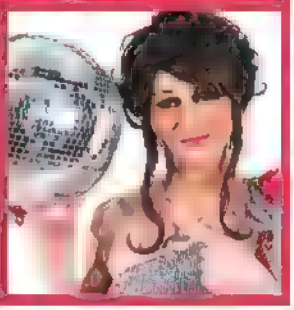
CLUB NIGHT With D[illegible]
Helsinki, Leicester

YOUR DISCO NEEDS YOU! New Saturday night for Missing

Saturday nights at Birmingham's award-winning Missing Bar are about to get even better with the introduction of Your Disco Needs You! Expect remixes, anthems, dance classics, disco, house and commercial - all from the fabulous DJ Mykee! Bring it on - we love to party till the early hours!
Missing - Birmingham

LIVE CABARET every Sunday Birmingham's Village Inn!

If you're a big fan of cabaret, and Friday night at The Village Inn wasn't enough for you, fear not - the popular Hurst Street venue hosts cabaret on Sunday nights too! This month's stars are: Mrs Mills (Sun 7 June), Charlotte the Harlotte (Sun 14 June), Marty Smith (Sun 21 June), Champagne Shirley (Sun 28 June). Plus, it's happy hour till 10pm, so get down there and end the week with a laugh!



BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikki Every Sunday
EDEN BAR

MISS PENNY'S SUPERSIZE SUNDAYS Cabaret every Sunday hosted by the one and only Miss Penny on stage at 8.30pm and 10.30pm
MISSING VAN

KARAOKE TIME AT EDEN WITH DJ NIKKI
If you fancy a sing-song whilst you're out for the night, then head to Eden Bar in Birmingham's Gay Village every Sunday night. DJ Nikki is on hand with a big book of songs, a microphone and an audience! Go on, you know you want to!
EDEN - BIRMINGHAM

SUNDAY BREAKFAST The perfect hangover cure from 9am. Just £7.95. Carvery from 12noon for just £9.95

SUNDAYS AT MISSING
Head down to Birmingham's Missing Bar every Sunday and enjoy some live cabaret from the one and only Miss Penny. She'll be hosting two shows, at 8.30pm and 10.30pm. Go on, just do it!
MISSING - BIRMINGHAM

THE LOFT LOUNGE

LIVE CABARET A whole host of cabaret throughout the month. *Sun 7 June* Mrs Mills *Sun 14 June* Charlotte the Harlotte *Sun 21 June* Marty. *Sun 28 June* Champagne Shirley
THE VILLAGE INN

SUPER SUNDAY DINNER served from 1pm. Cure that hangover and choose from a variety of meats with all the best bits of a roast for only £6.95
SIDEWALK

CHILL OUT Look out for the spe...
THE FOX

SUNDAY VS FUNDAY B...
Happy Hour unt... 2a...
BAR JESTER

WINE TASTING & LUNCH

THE WELLINGTON

WEST MIDLANDS

MARTY'S PARTY 9... 2
Games, Karaoke, F...
...and mayhem. Drink...
GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

CHILL OUT After ...
RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

THE PARTY LOUNGE ...
...party. D...
LION BAR & CLUB, WALSALL

QUEENS OF DRAG ... T...
Plus DJ Shawn S...
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

RANDOM PARTY NIGHT Open 7pm-2am with dr...
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

SUNDAY ROAST ...
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

EAST MIDLANDS

BRUNCH CLUB B...
...
RAINBOW & DOVE, LEICESTER

KARAOKE & DISCO 7pm-2am
NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

Open from 2pm every day.

eden JUNE

THUR 4th IN THE MARQUEE
LA VOIX
COMEDY. CABARET.
The amazing vocal talent of La Voix with a little bit of crazy thrown in for fun !

FRI 5th IN THE MARQUEE
LIP GLOSS
STRIPPER. CABARET.
A night of fun with your hostess Miss Penny !

EVERY THURS
I ♥ 90s
90s HITS WITH DJ DAN

SAT 6th IN THE MARQUEE
THE SMITHS & MORRISSEY DISCO
Panic On The Streets of Birmingham

FRI 19th IN THE MARQUEE
MIDS BEARS
A gathering of bears, cubs and all those in between alongside our admirers.

EVERY FRI & SUN
KARAOKE & DISCO DJ NIKKI
COME ALONG & SING WITH A FRIENDLY REGULAR CROWD!

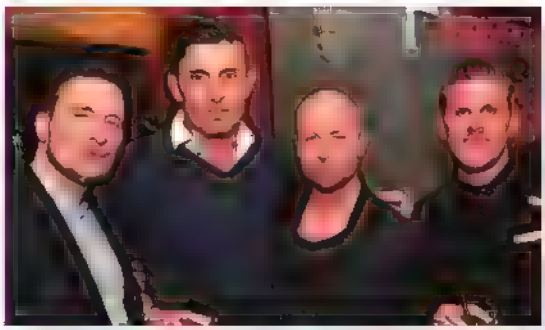
EVERY SAT
80s HITS WITH DJ DAN

THANK YOU!
TO EVERYONE THAT HELPED MAKE PRIDE AT EDEN ONE OF THE VERY BEST.
From Garry, Cal & everyone at Eden bar.

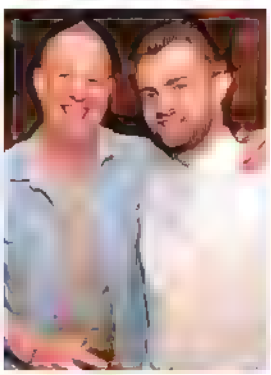
THUR 25th IN THE MARQUEE
LA VOIX
COMEDY. CABARET.
You can never have too much of a good thing. She's back the fabulous La Voix.

116 Sherlock Street Birmingham B5 6NB 0121 622 1953 | www.theedenbar.co.uk

Brum's **The Loft Lounge** is a great place for pals!



More great photos on **facebook**
facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk



Pictures by Laura Byrne

The Loft Lounge (FP May 15).qxp Layout 1 27/05/2015 17:08 Page 1

THE LOFT LOUNGE

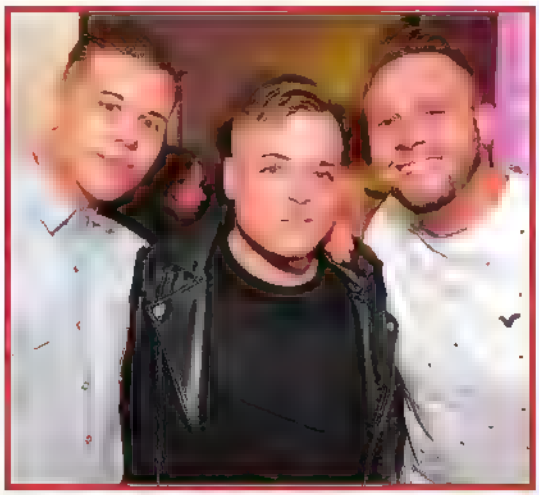
SUMMER MENU HAS ARRIVED

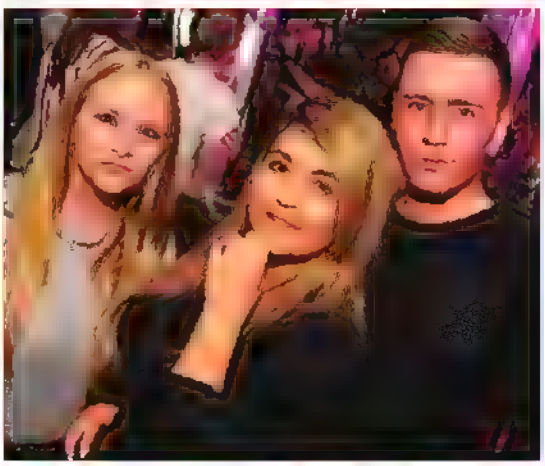
loft.birmingham @loftlounge2 loftbirmingham

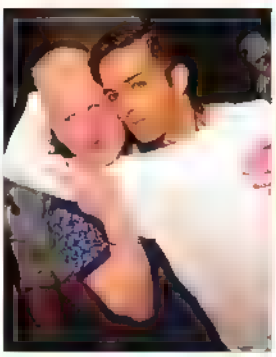
143 Bromsgrove Street, Birmingham, B5 6RG

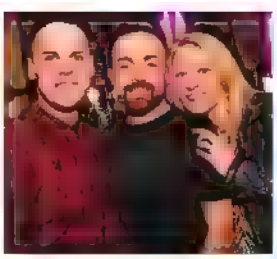
0121 622 2444

Sidewalk: Birmingham's stylish start to your night



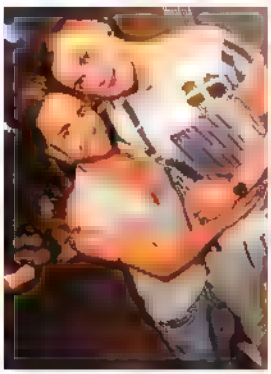


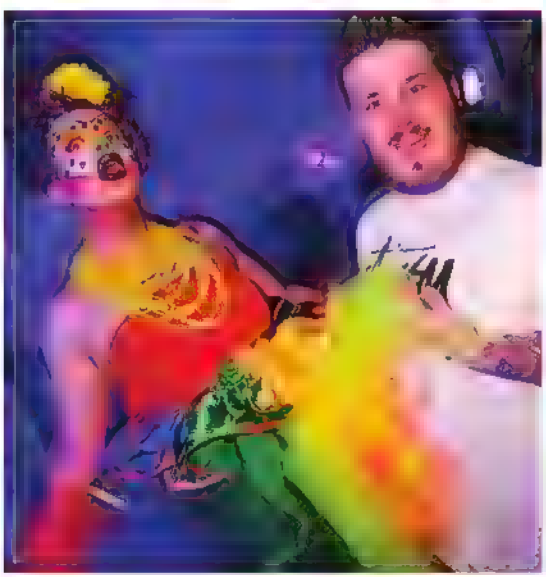




The Nightingale: It's Birmingham's gay super club!

facebook

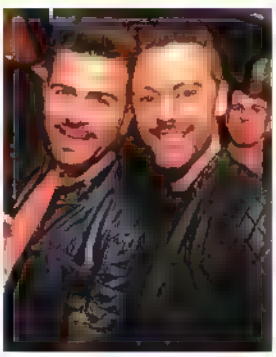


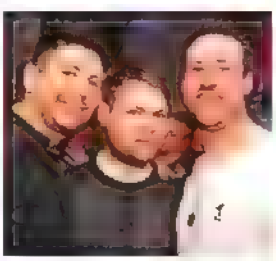


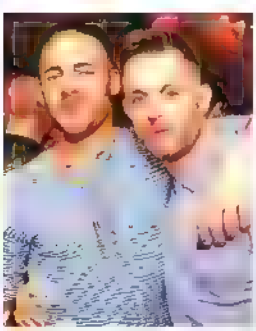
Pictures by Laura Byrne

It's a great night out at Birmingham's **Village Inn**!

More great photos on **facebook**
facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk







Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

Village (FP- May 15).qxp Layout 1 27/05/2015 16:00 Page 1

THE VILLAGE INN

JUNE CABARET

FRIDAY 5TH
MISS PENNY

FRIDAY 12TH
KRUGER SISTERS

VILLAGE L8R

FRIDAY 19TH
TUTTI LA CAMP

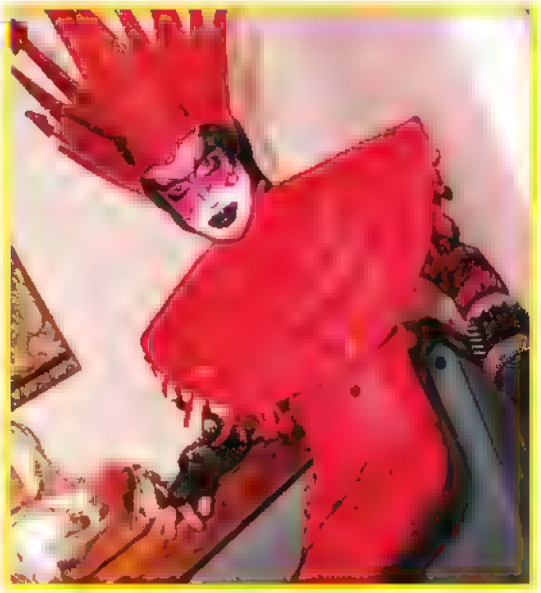
FRIDAY 26TH
SANDRA

FRIDAYS TILL 6AM
SATURDAYS TILL 8AM

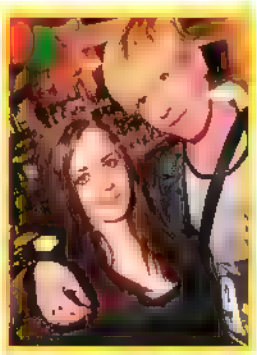
WWW.VILLAGEBIRMINGHAM.CO.UK

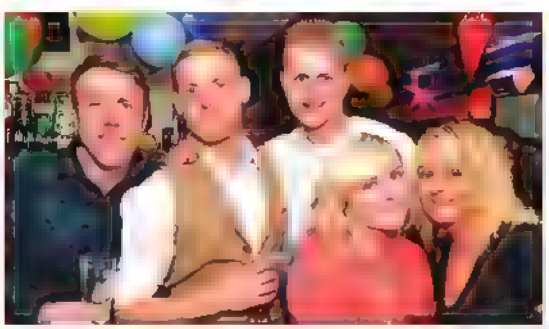
VILLAGEINNBIRMINGHAM @VILLAGEBRUM THEVILLAGEBIRMINGHAM

Every night's a party night at Brum's **Missing Bar**



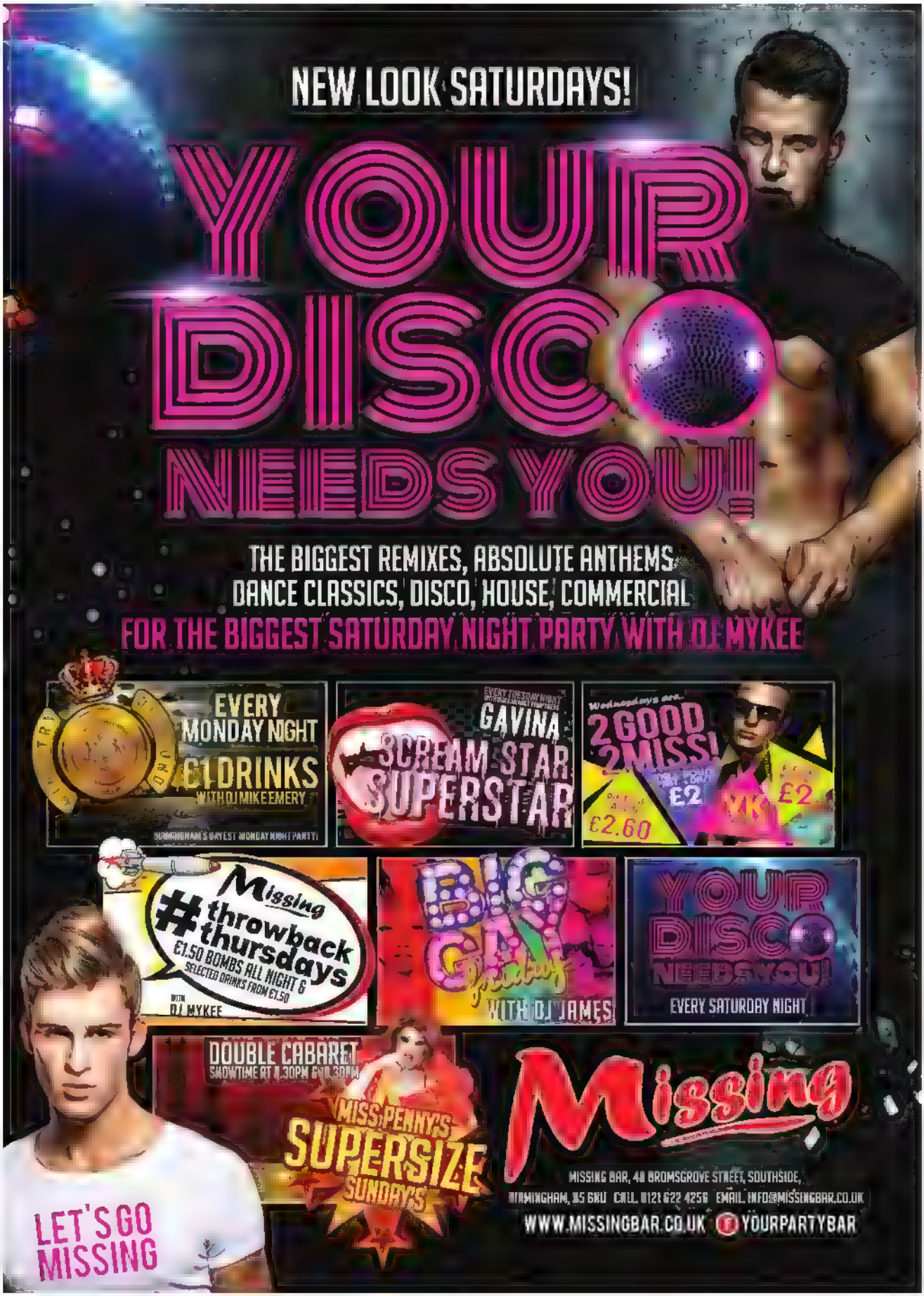
More pics online on facebook



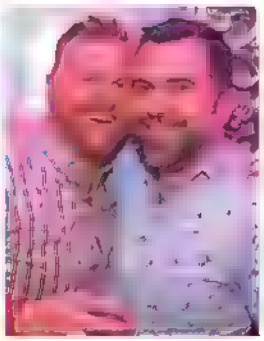


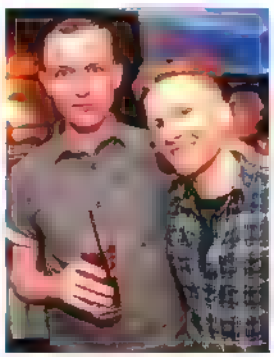
Photos by Laura Byrne

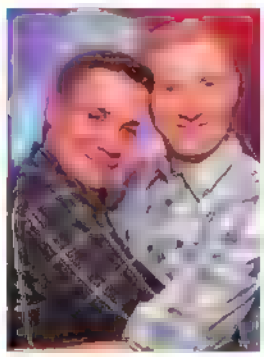
Missing (FP June 15).qxp Layout 1 27/05/2015 15:57 Page 1



There's a great night to be had at Birmingham's **Eden**!







Birmingham

BAR JESTER
[illegible]
B1 1EG
Tel: 121 [illegible]344

BOLTZ CLUB
Lower Essex St B5 6QP
Tel: 0121 666 6868

CLUB CHIC
28 Horsefair B1 1DD
Tel: 0121 666 6806

THE CORE
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 2797
www.thecoreclub.co.uk

EDEN BAR
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 1953
www.theedenbar.co.uk
/eden.bar
See pictures on page 46

EQUATOR
Hurst St B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 5077

FOUNTAIN INN
Wrentham St B5 6QL
Tel: 0121 622 1462

THE FOX
17 Lower Essex St
B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

LOFT LOUNGE
142 Bromsgrove St,
B5 6RG
Tel:0121 6222 444
www.theloftlounge.co.uk
/The-Loft-Lounge
See pictures on page 42

MISSING BAR
Hurst St, B5 6NU
Tel: 0121 622 4256
www.missingbar.co.uk
/missingbar
See pictures on page 44

THE NIGHTINGALE
Kent St, B'ham
B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 1718
www.nightingaleclub.co.uk
/thenightingaleclub
See pictures on page 43

RSVP (formerly Queen Street)
Hurst St B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 2444

SIDEWALK
Hurst Street
B5 6EG
Tel: 0121 666 6220
www.sidewalkbirmingm.co.uk
See pictures on page 36

THE VILLAGE INN
Hurst St, B'ham
B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
www.villageinnbirmingham.co.uk
/villageinnbirmingham
See pictures on page 40

THE WELLINGTON
72 Bristol St B5 7AH
Tel: 0121 622 2592

West Midlands

COVENTRY

RAINBOWS
Short St CV1 2LW
Tel: 02476 551738

GLOUCESTER

THE WESTGATE
Westgate Street
GL1 2NF
Tel: 01452 690045

KIDDERMINSTER

ROYAL EXCHANGE
31 New Road DY10 1AF
Tel: 01562 228619

LEEK

VALIANT
3 Stanley Street ST13 5HG
Tel: 01538 382812

SHREWSBURY

C21 CLUB
Abbey Foregate
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.c21bar.co.uk
/C21Nightclub

THE PEACH TREE
21 Abbey Foregate.
Tel: 01743 355055
www.thepeachtree.co.uk
/ThePeachTreeRestaurant

SPIRIT
22 Abbey Foregate.
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.spiritchampagne.co.uk
/SpiritShrewsbury

STOKE-ON-TRENT

GOSSIP
4 Hope Street.
ST1 5BT
Tel: 01782 204957

PINK
93 Stafford Street
ST1 1LS Tel: 01782 272772

STOURBRIDGE

THE BELL
20 Market St DY8 1AG
Tel: 07826 518478

STRATFORD upon AVON

NO7
Prowd Crowd 1st Mon
month, 7 Windsor St
Tel: 07787 642510

TELFORD

THREE FURNACES
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Madeley TF7 4JB
Tel: 01952 588521

WALSALL

LION BAR & CLUB
Birchills St
WS2 8NG
Tel: 01922 610977

THE RED LION
Park St WS1 1NW
Tel: 01922 637790

WOLVERHAMPTON

BOND STREET TAVERN
14 Bond St WV2 4AS
Tel: 07825 305050

GORGEOUS CLUB
School St WV1 4LF
Tel: 01902 427247

THE WHITE HART
Worcester St
WV2 4LQ
Tel: 01902 423998

WORCESTER

THE FLAG
50 Lowesmoor
WR1 2SG
Tel: 01905 780467

VELVET CLUB
Angel Row,
WR1 3QN
Tel: 01905 20218

East Midlands

DERBY

THE CROWN INN
40 Curzon St
DE1 1LL
Tel: 01332 381742

LEICESTER

DOVER CASTLE
34 Dover St LE1 6PT
Tel: 0116 255 3052

HELSINKI
94 Rutland St LE1 1SB
Tel: 0116 254 7568

RAINBOW & DOVE
185 Charles St LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 254 7568

SLOANES
3-5 New Walk LE1 6RL
Tel: 0116 255 2220

VENOM
(YOLO) Gay every Wed
Belgrave Gate LE1 3GR
Tel: 0116 251 7986

NORTHAMPTON

THE BOSTON
College St NN1 2QP
Tel: 01604 604404

NOTTINGHAM

NEW FORESTERS
St Anns St NG1 3LX
Tel: 0115 958 0432

THE NEWMARKET INN
38 Lower Parliament
Street NG1 3BA (Gay
Friendly)

NG1 CLUB
76-80 Lower Parliament
St NG1 1EH
Tel: 0115 958 8440

PROPAGANDA
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0115 9 9 9183

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Local theatre group to present 'gender-bending' medieval play in Birmingham

Birmingham School of Acting is this month presenting a show that's been described as 'Game Of Thrones meets a gender-bending narrative of love and redemption'.

Moira Buffini's comedy-drama, Silence, has also been hailed a show in which boys turn out to be girls, men are pigs and women in trousers save the day.

Set a thousand years ago in the Dark Ages, the play finds Britain being savaged by Viking attacks during the reign of King Ethelred the Unready. Silence, a young lord of Cumbria, is called to the palace to marry Ymma of Normandy.

The show runs at Birmingham's Old Rep Theatre from 17 to 20 June.

New trans youth group to launch in Birmingham

A new youth group is soon to be launched in Birmingham for people who're trans, gender variant, non-binary, gender queer or questioning their gender identity.

Emerge will cater for young people aged 13 to 19 (and up to 25 in some circumstances) and will meet two Saturdays in a month, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm at a central Birmingham location.

To find out more, email: emergeyouth@blgbt.org

New peer support group for Midlands gay & bisexual men living with HIV

A new peer support group for gay, bisexual and MSM men in the Midlands is launching early this month, specifically geared at men living with HIV.

Positive21 currently have two similar, weekly groups based in North and South London. The main of the two groups is to support people and help combat the many issues surrounding HIV that may crop up in people's daily lives. This may be disclosure, new ARVs (medications) or, more commonly, feelings of isolation, which is said to be a regular effect of living with HIV.

Due to the success of Positive21's groups in London, the support group is set to bring the service to Midlands men with a fortnightly group in Hereford. The group will be open to all gay, bisexual and MSM men from Hereford's surrounding areas, including Abergavenny, Birmingham, Cardiff, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Newport and Worcester.

The group is a place where people can come along and discuss in confidence any issues they may have and share their experiences, with others whose circumstances are similar. The support is available for members for as long and as often as they feel they want or need to attend. And it is all done within a safe, friendly and confidential environment.

The group hopes to arrange presentations and updates by various outside agencies, such as welfare rights officers, nutritionists and consultants.

The first Positive21 peer support group will take place at The Courtyard, Edgar Street, Hereford on Wednesday 3 June starting at 7pm.

For more information and to get in touch with the group, visit www.positive21.org.uk

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‘Great success’ for Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra’s annual Pride Proms

Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra's Pride Proms concert on Saturday 23 May has been hailed a great success by its organisers, with over seventy musicians joining forces for flag-waving fun at Birmingham Conservatoire's Adrian Boult Hall

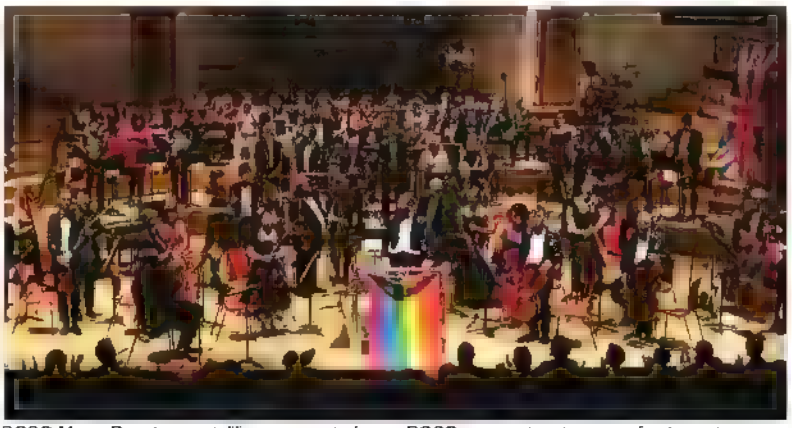
The region's only LGBT orchestra and a chorus of members drawn from as far away as mid-Wales combined to perform a wide range of mus c from Jurassic Park to Jerusalem

Birmingham Pride is all about celebrating the community, and events like the Pride Proms put people very much at the heart of the two-day festiva

Pride Proms threw 'normal and stuffy' concert etiquette out of the window. With raucous hooter-blowing, the annua event was the ideal concert at which to let down your hair and enjoy yourself - whether you were a seasoned concert-goer or a classical music 'virgin'.

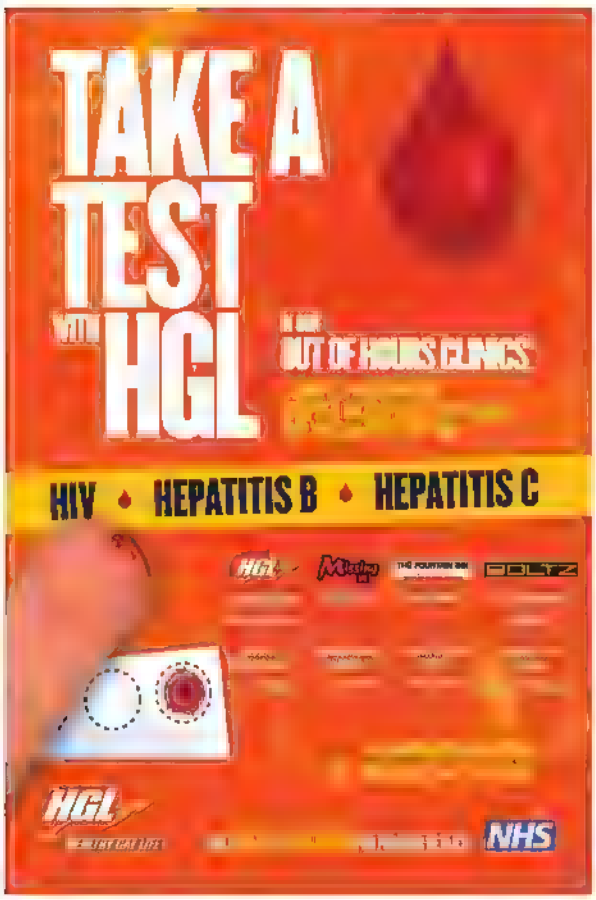
Organisers say that the orchestra were on top form they received a standing ovation while compere and singer Andrew R da brought a rea sense of humour to proceedings.

Commenting on the concert, Jack Lovell, BGSO Music Director, said: "I'm so proud of everyone in the orchestra and chorus. We are the region's only LGBT-plus orchestra, and at every concert the standard seems to get that little bit higher. We had a brilliant audience and it was the perfect way to celebrate Birmingham Pride."



BGSO is already rehearsing for its next concert, BGSO At The Movies, taking place at Adrian Boult Hall on 29 November. Tickets will go on sale soon.

If you're interested in playing (or singing!) in a BGSO concert, visit bgso.org.uk.



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- UNIQUE - Young Persons (16-24 yrs) LGBTQ support

Contact us today to book an appointment or for more information.

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Suite 3, 1st Floor, Lanchard House, Victoria Street, **West Bromwich** B70 8ER

Info@shsl.org.uk / 01384 243 220

Arts Groups

ACE A Choir of Equality Meets every Thursday 5.30-7pm Tel 01902 425092

ACTING OUT An acting group for the LGBT community open to anyone Contact acting.out@btinternet.com or visit www.actingout.org.uk

ARTPRIDE Art group Contact beckytebbett@hotmail.com

BARDS & BOOKS Reading group Every 1st Monday monthly LGBT Centre B'ham e.hadenshouse@hotmail.com

BGSO Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra Contact info@bgso.org.uk or visit www.bgso.org.uk

DUDLEY LIBRARY LGBT READING GROUP 1st Friday Of Every Month Tel 01384 815560

GAPP (Gay and Performing Proudly) Birmingham Call Mike 07545 507791

LEICESTER POETRY OPEN MIKE NIGHT Meets last Tues monthly at The Red Tent Tel Bobba 07777 692881

LEICESTERSHIRE RAINBOW VOICES LGBT choir Meets every Tues in Leicester Call Chris on 07740 855248

LGBT READING GROUP Every 3rd Wednesday monthly 7pm Tel Jayne 01902 552060

JOURNEY FILM GROUP LGBT Film group meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesday monthly www.journeyfilmclub.co.uk

RAINBOW SPIRIT Creative activities for gay men Call: Jon 07974 477206

RAINBOW VOICES LGBT choir Call Carolyn 07828 647364 or Steve 07813 025990

SMETHWICK LIBRARY LGBT Reading Group 1st Monday monthly @ 5.45pm. Tel 0121 558 0497

UNTOLD STORIES LGBT History project in Leicestershire & Rutland. e dennis@leicesterlgbtcentre.org

WALSALL LGBT BOOK CLUB 1st Sat monthly 11am, Walsall Central Library Contact Kim 01922 653121

LGBT Social

ALLsorts Group for young adults 16-26) LGBT Centre Leicester Call: Paul Foxon 0116 254 7412

ANOTHER WAY LGBT Social group meets in Walsall every Saturday 12-2pm village Hub, Caldmore, Walsall Tel 07475 942929

BROTHERHOOD Group for anyone transitioning from Female to Male (18+) LGBT Centre, Leicester. Call: Dennis 0116 254 7412

BRUM BI GROUP Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at the HGL drop in, Tel 07532 385760

BRUM DINING OUT Meets at a different restaurant each month e brumdiningout@hotmail.com

CORBY LGBT NETWORK Friendship socialising and information exchange 3rd Wed monthly 7.30pm www.corbylgbt.co.uk

COVENTRY LADS social group away from the scene Call 02476 229292

DE MONTFORT LGBT SOCIETY Based in Leicester www.dmulgbt.co.uk

DERBYSHIRE CC Employee Network www.derbyshire.gov.uk/councilequalities/employee_network.lgbt

DERBYSHIRE REACHOUT Men's Social Group Tel 01332 207704

DOSTI South Asian men's group Leicester Call 0116 254 1747

DUDLEY GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S SOCIAL NON-SCENE GROUP 2nd Sat monthly Free buffet lunch provided Call Matt Barlow on 01384 243220

THE EDWARD CARPENTER COMMUNITY OF GAY MEN Call 08703 215121 Birmingham contact 0121 551 3161

EVERGREEN LGBT Social Group in B'ham Tel: 07749 412269

FAN LGBT Social Events Group Northants. www.fannorthants.co.uk

GAY CLASSIC CAR GROUP Call Simon on 0121 565 4166

GAYMEZ LGBT Games Night in Wolverhampton Twice monthly Thurs 8-10pm Tel 01902 425092

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gay & Lesbian Community Social group meets every Thurs @ Gloucs Centre 7.30 Tel. 07060 627273

HEREFORD LGBT Gay Men's Drop-in The Health Centre Gaol Street Hereford No appointment necessary

HIGH 5 GROUP Social Group for men affected by HIV in Leicestershire Tel. 0116 254 1747

I:ME Group for BME LGBT people in Wolverhampton 2nd Sunday monthly Tel. 07817 548602

LADS CAFE Shropshire Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

LADS CAFE Weekly gathering for Gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton Every Monday 6-9pm. Tel 07788 673666

LAVENDAR MOVEMENT Planting flowers for all to enjoy Meet every Tues. e: thelavendarmovement@gmail.com

LEICESTER GAY GROUP Call: Pete on 0116 291 6138

LEICESTER LGBT CENTRE CAFE Leicester, Call, 0116 254 7412

LGBT PARENTS Network for LGBT parents. www.lgbtparents.net

LGBT SHREWSBURY What's happening in Shrewsbury. lgbtshrewsbury.co.uk

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent Meets every Wed at The Observatory Hanley www.gaystoke.org.uk

NOTTINGHAM BREAKOUT Meets every Tuesday from 7.30 Contact 01159476868

NUBIAN RAINBOW Celebrating black LGBT people in the community West Midlands Social Group. Tel: 0121 446 1056

OUT EVERYWHERE Bringing people together since 1995 Call 08450 060050

PINK SOU'WESTERS South West B'ham LGBT Group Offers non-scene social events and activities Call 07976 274271

QUIZ NIGHT 1st Wednesday monthly 7pm @ Gorgeous Wolves Tel 01902 425092

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's Social Non-Scene Group 4th Sat monthly Free buffet lunch provided Call Matt Barlow on 01384 243220

SHREWSBURY CHILL OUT MONDAYS 1st Mon monthly at OMH. 3rd Monday monthly at The Alb 8.15pm Shrewsbury

SOUTH ASIANS LGBT Finding A Voice Social Group in Birmingham Meet once a month at B'ham LGBT Centre Call 0121 643 1160

THIRD WAY Social Group for Bi people over 18 Every 3rd Tuesday monthly in Wolverhampton. 7.9pm Tel 01902 425092

TRUE COLOURS Derby based BME LGBT Social group Call 07779 560284

WAGS Walsall Activities Social Group Over 18s only e sgawwalsall@hotmail.com

WARWICK PRIDE Social society Organises events on and around the University Campus e hello@warwickpride.org

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Community Group www.brewery-tap.org.uk

WS-MIDLANDS LGBT Social group Every 1st Tues monthly 7.9pm in Walsall. Tel 07895 661557

LGBT Forums

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE NETWORK Formed in 2002 Email bccigbt@hotmail.com

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST campaigning and lobbying, promoting community cohesion and representing LGBT community's views e: daveviney@bigbt.org

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST FORUM For LGB Groups. Quarterly Forum open to all LGB groups for networking e: daveviney@bigbt.org

BLACK GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S DISCUSSION FORUM. A safe discrete confidential space for black men to discuss issues that affect their lives Call. 0121 446 1056

GAY BIRMINGHAM REMEMBERED LGBT history project e: daveg gay birmingham remembered.org.uk

LEICESTER LGB & T CENTRE Host numerous social groups Call 0116 254 7412

LGBT WOLVERHAMPTON To raise and develop the profile of the Wolves LGBT community Tel: 01902 425092

MIDLANDS LGBT EMPLOYEES NETWORK Call: 02476 492711

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Gay Men's Drop-in. Call: 01782 425969

PINK SHIELD Working to make Birmingham a safer place for the LGBT Community Tel: 0121 622 2592

PRISM A forum for LGBT people in Leicester Call 0116 254 7412

RAINBOW HERITAGE Nottinghamshire. Call 0115 934 9529

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Holds events for professionals and the LGBT community Tel 0116 254 1747

Mature Groups

EMBRACE Group for gay and bi men in Coventry aged over 50 Rainbows Coventry. Call: James on 07824 448717 or Nichola on 02476 231999

GREYPRIDE LEICESTER mixed group aimed at mature LGBT people Call 0116 254 7412

LADS LUNCH Monthly lunch for mature Gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton. 3rd Sat monthly 11am-2pm Tel 01902 425092

LGBT 50+ South Staffs social group for people 50+ e:lgbtstaffordshirebuddies.co.uk

MATURE GAY GROUP Meets in Shrewsbury every Friday 11am - 1pm Call Trevor on 07779 861640

MATURE GAY MEN For older gay men Call Trevor on 07754 829548

OLDER LADS CAFE Weekly group for mature (over 40) Gay and Bi-sexual men in Wolves Every Monday 1-4pm Tel 01902 425092

OLDER LBG Women's network social group Derby based. Call: 07779 560284

RUBY'S A mature lesbian & bisexual women's group Tel: 01902 425092

STOKE OLDER PERSONS GROUP Social group for mature LGBT. Tel: 01782 266998

Religious Groups

BIRMINGHAM BUDDHIST CENTRE Meditation Drop-in classes Tel: 0121 449 5279

BIRMINGHAM L.G.C.M. Christian Organisation group Tel 07943 010345

CHANGING ATTITUDE Contact The Revd Colin Coward on 01380 724908

DERBY QUEST for Spirituality Sun 5-6.30pm Tel 07970 812957

JOURNEY METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Birmingham Call: 0121 454 4406. Wolverhampton: Call 07734 155664

LEICESTER GAY CATHOLICS A group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people their families and friends Call 07905 421915

LESBIAN & GAY CHRISTIANS Lesbian and gay Christian movement Tel 0121 453 1299 or text/text 07943 010345

QUAKER Lesbian & Gay Fellowship Social and supportive group founded on Quaker spiritual principals www.qlgf.org.uk

QUEST LINKLINE A national helpline service for lesbian, gay and bisexual Catholics. Tel 0808 808 0234

RAINBOW MOOT LGBT Pagans An Pagan paths welcome Call: Rob 07943 323989

STAFFORDSHIRE LESBIAN AND GAY CHRISTIANS Support group for lesbian and gay christians e:lana2910@hotmail.com or call 07974 7647

Sport & Fitness

BIRMINGHAM BLAZE LGBT Friendly Football Team. www.birmingham-blaze.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM BULLS LGBT friendly Rugby Team Call Andy 07708 536416 or visit birminghambullsrfc.com

BOURNVILLE LADIES HOCKEY CLUB LGBT friendly hockey in south Birmingham www.bournvillehc.co.uk

LEICESTER WILDE CATS Gay & Lesbian Football Team. Call Gareth 0116 270 0137

LGBT Community Indoor Football Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT TABLE TENNIS CLUB 1st & 3rd Wed monthly 7-8.30pm Tel 0121 643 0821

LGBT Zumba Wolverhampton Tel: 01902 425092

GAY OUTDOOR CLUB Walks twice a month on Sundays Contact gocwm@yahoo.co.uk

MIDLANDS OUT BADMINTON Birmingham Call Andy on 02476 346141

MOSELEY SHOALS Birmingham's GOC Gay Swim Group For info call 0121 346 1522

NOTTINGHAM BALL BOIS Gay football team founded in 2006 Call 07828 014952

OUTDOORLADS Outdoor pursuits group for gay lads www.outdoorlads.com

STOKE PANTHERS BADMINTON SQUASH CLUB Call Andy on 01782 266998 5167

WOLVES WALKERS Tel 01902 425092

WOLVES WARRIORS Football Club Tel Andy on 07825 305050

Student Groups

BIRMINGHAM CITY UNI LGBT Social events every week. www.bcuglbt.com

LGBT & FRIENDS SOCIETY University of Derby Students Union www.udsulgbt.com

LGBT ASTON UNIVERSITY Tel: 0121 204 3000

STUDENT GROUPS Leicester University contact Alex e arp19@leicester.ac.uk or Hayley e dmulgbtpresident@hotmail.co.uk

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM LGBTQ ASSOCIATION Social events every Wednesdays & Sundays e: lgbtq@guild.bham.ac.uk

Women's Groups

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS e-mail network e: Birmingham Girlsnetworksubscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS BOOK GROUP Women-centered book group Meets 1st Sun of the month 3-5pm. Tel 0121 622 3213

BI-WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP For information contact Bobbie at space318808@hotmail.com

BOOTWOMEN. Walks in the Midlands area Call 07505 970991

BORDER WOMEN Network for lesbian and Bi women. www.borderwomen.net

L:BOW ROOM Social Group for women over 18 Meets every 2nd & fourth Wednesday monthly Tel 07817 548602

FOX FILM CLUB Women-centred film club every 3rd Sunday monthly. www.foxbar.co.uk

KIDDERMINSTER GIRLS Lesbian social group meets bi-weekly at local pub e:jillygalore@blueyonder.co.uk

OLDER LESBIAN GROUP for

DO YOU NEED TO GIVE YOUR LGBT COMMUNITY GROUP BETTER EXPOSURE?

We're always looking for Community News and Community Groups to feature in our Community Profiles

Do you need to feature your group? contact Ryan Humphreys (Editor) on 01743 281722

To find out more about all these organisations their website

the over 40's meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at 1pm at 10 Norton Tower Contact on sue@hotmail co uk

RUBY'S Mature Women s Group Wolverhampton Tel 01902 425092

RUBYFRUIT WOMEN Leicester based non-scene social group for lesbian, bisexual and questioning women of all ages Wednesday nights from 7pm. Tel 07512 156474

THE PINK LINK is a social space in Staffordshire for women with a different vision. Call 01782 266998

WORCESTER LESBIAN GROUP Meets twice monthly e me myself_79@outlook.com

Youth Groups

1ST OUT YOUTH GROUP Leicester LGBT Centre, 15 Wellington Street Leicester Call Paul Foxon on 0116 254 7412

DERBYSHIRE LGBT Youth Forum. Tel: 01332 207704

GALAXY Group for lesbian, gay and bisexual young people aged 16 and under in Stoke on Trent and North Staffordshire Call 0300 123 0970

I-MIX Group for young LGBTQ people in Shropshire Telford & Wrekin Call. 01952 221410

INSIDE OUT (Sandwell) A youth club for LGBT and questioning young people and their friends Tel 0845 352 1276

OUTBURST Nottingham. Support group for LGBT young people. Tel: 0115 952 5040

OUT CENTRAL LGBT youth group for young people 13-19 who are LGBT or questioning their sexuality Call 07826 873458

OUT EAST Youth group based in Sutton Coldfield Tel. 07795 611781

PRISM LGBTQ Support group for young people in Coventry Info@prismlgbtq org

SHOUT (Sandwell) An LGBT youth steering group which works towards giving LGBT young people a voice in Sandwell Tel 0845 352 1276

SPACE LGBT YOUTH GROUP A group for young people aged 13 to 21 Tel: 01543 411413

SPECTRUM YOUNG LGBT SOCIAL GROUP Leicestershire Group offering opportunities for young LGBT people. Call: 0116 254 7412

UNIQUE Group for young LGBTQ people Meet twice monthly on Sundays Call Matt or Justin 01384 243220

X2Y Group for young LGBT people in Wolverhampton Every Saturday e info@x2y org uk

HIV/AIDS Helplines

ABPLUS A Charity supporting people living with and affected by HIV Call 0121 622 6471

FRESHWINDS HOUSE Holistic care and support for people with life threatening illness. Tel: 0121 415 6670 (8 lines)

HEALTHY GAY LIFE - BIRMINGHAM Free confidential service working with Gay/ Bisexual men to promote sexual mental and social health and well-being. Tel 0121 440 6161

LEICESTERSHIRE AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES Tel 0116 255 9995

STAFFORDSHIRE BUDDIES Confidential help and support for people living with or affected by HIV Tel: 01782 201251

SUMMIT HOUSE SUPPORT Practical Support and confidential advice around all HIV AIDS related issues in the Dudley Sandwell borough Tel 01384 243220

TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST Offer a range of services for those infected and affected by HIV and STIs. Birmingham 0121 694 6440 Solihull 0121 694 6440 Coventry 02476 229292 Nottingham, 0115 882 0121 Telford: 01952 221410 Wolves 01902 711818

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services advice and support for LGBT communities affected by HIV & STIs. Leicester Tel: 0116 254 1747

LGBT Helplines

COVENTRY & WARWICK SHIRE FRIEND Tel 02476 714199

DERBYSHIRE LGBT SWITCHBOARD Tel: 01332 349333

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTEGRATED RESPONSE PROJECT Leicester Tel 0116 255 0004

GAYLIFE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Tel 0300 123 0970

HATE CRIME NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Talk to a Hate Crime officer in complete confidence Stoke area. Tel 01782 266998 (Loletta Higgins) North Staffs Tel 01785 233458 (John Wilson)

LBG COUNSELLING SERVICE Free counselling service for all sorts of LGB related issues Call 01782 425969

LEICESTER LGBT HELP-LINE Tel 0116 255 0667

LGBT AA MEETING West Midlands 8pm every Sat. Summit House, Dudley. Tel: 01384 243220

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent & North Staffs. Tel 01782 266998

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN & GAY SWITCHBOARD 0115 934 8485 or 01623 621515

RAINBOW SUPPORT, HEREFORDSHIRE free and confidential support Call 07507 447834

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers counselling services and one to one support for LGB communities. Leicester Tel 0116 254 1747

VICTIM SUPPORT Provides emotional support and practical help to anyone who has been a victim of crime. Tel: 0300 303 1977

Sexual Health

BIRMINGHAM LGBT CENTRE Support Groups, Sexual Health Testing, Cafe Community Groups Events and more Tel: 0121 643 0821

THE BRIDGE CENTRE Shrewsbury A free sexual health service for gay and Bisexual men. Tel 01743 344474

BROOK BIRMINGHAM Free and confidential sexual health services in the West Tel: 0121 248 2500

DUDLEY GAY MEN'S PROJECT Free & Confidential support service for gay bi-sexual and MSM men living in or around Dudley Call Matt Barlow 07980 906895

HAWTHORNE HOUSE Sexual health testing also operates a Walk In Service every morning from 9.30am 11.30am. Tel 0121 424 3300 or 0121 424 2456

HEALTHY GAY LIFE Birmingham. Free confidential service working with Gay Bisexual men to promote sexual mental and social health and well-being. Call 0121 440 6161

HEREFORD SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC @ GAOL STREET Open Monday Friday; Call 01432 376915 for appointments and walk in times

HIV FAST TEST Free 20 minute HIV testing in Shropshire Telford & Wrekin Call. 01952 221410

HIV TESTING by appointment at Summit House West Bromwich Call Matt Barlow on 01384 243220 or 0121 500 5205

KWIK PRICK Rapid HIV Testing, Leicester. Call: 0116 254 1747

LGBT SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE Free services for the LGBT community who work or reside in South Staffs. Tel 01543 411413

MEN ONLY Sexual Health Clinic at Heroes Health Club, Stourbridge. Call Matt 07980 906895

MEN'S HIV FAST TEST CLINIC Free 20 minute testing in Nottingham 1st Monday monthly Call Adrian on 0115 883 9081

OUTMINDS A social support group for gay and bisexual men with mental health problems living in the Solihull borough. Call 0121 742 4941

SANDWELL GAY & BI MEN'S SERVICE Sexual health and social support Call Matt Barlow 07980 906895

THE RAINBOW PRACTICE Every 1st & last Wednesday of the month. Held at The Gay Men s Drop-in. Call: 0300 123 0970

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services for LGB&T individuals and support for HIV & STIs including testing services. Leicester Tel 0116 254 1747

WALSALL GAY MEN'S HEALTH PROJECT Delivering health and social care services to the LGBT community Tel: 01922 613141

WHITTALL STREET A sexual health clinic located in Birmingham city centre. Tel: 0121 237 5700

WORCESTERSHIRE GAY MEN'S HEALTH Project providing free confidential advice & support. Tel. 01905 681751

Support Groups

ABplus Poz Gay Men s Group Meets 1st Thursday monthly for information and support. Call: Peter on 07960 404926.

ALCOHOL & DRUGS SMART Recovery SMART meetings in a friendly environment. e smartbigbt@yahoo com

BIRMINGHAM PARENTS' SUPPORT GROUP Meets 1st Wednesday Bi-monthly in Solihull. Tel Maureen on 0121 742 0230

BEAM (Black ethnic & Asian Minority, Social and Support Group in Leicester Call 0116 254 7412

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE FRIEND gay lesbian bisexual or trans? Need to talk? Call 02476 714199 Mon Fri 7 30pm 8pm

CHANGES Based in Wolverhampton Call: Ilsa on 07864240222 or Maria on 07542 450163

DOSTI South Asian men s support group, Leicester Call: 0116 254 1747

GROUP ONE Derby based support group for LGBT families, call 07779 560284

HGL COUNSELLING & PSYCHOTHERAPY Mental and sexual health, for lesbians bisexuals gay men and trans people with a choice of male or female counsellors Tel 0121 446 1085 or 07976 919481

HGL MARRIED MEN'S GROUP Support and advice for married men Call: 0121 440 6161

HIGH 5 GROUP An HIV awareness group for gay/bisexual men who are affected by HIV Group provides Support events, outings. Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

HIV MEN'S GROUP Shropshire Telford & Wrekin Call 01952 221410

HIV WOMEN'S GROUP Shropshire Telford & Wrekin Call 01952 221410

INFORMAL ONE TO ONE SUPPORT A service for young men south Asian men and African Caribbean men. Tel 0121 440 6161 Email info@hgl nhs.uk

LEICESTER LGB&T CENTRE Host numerous support groups. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT ALCOHOL SUPPORT GROUP Offer support to anybody in the gay community who has alcohol related problems Tel: Tony on 0121 440 6161 or 07760 195642

LGBT NETWORK Stoke on Trent & North Staffordshire Tel: 01782 266998

LGBT NETWORK Wolverhampton Holistic support for LGB&T people in the Black Country Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT COUNSELLING Wolverhampton Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT PROFESSIONALS In Wolverhampton. Meets once a month. Tel: 01902 425092

MIND OUT Mental Health Support Group in Wolverhampton 1st and 3rd Wednesday monthly Tel: 01902 425092

NATURAL HEALING For emotional and physical health Contact Alison Lesbian Homeopath Tel: 01902 688087

NEW ROAD PARENTS Bromsgrove and surrounding areas Supporting parents of LGBT people Meets bi-monthly on the 1st Wed Tel Margaret 01527 832492

PINK PARENTS A social networking group for all lesbian and gay parents and their children E pink parents@virginmedia.com

RANK OUTSIDERS Support group for LGB armed forces personnel past & present Helpline: 0870 740 7755

RAPE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROJECT: BIRMINGHAM Free confidential counselling for LGBT survivors of sexual, domestic violence and hate crimes Tel: 0121 643 0301

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men s Drop-In Service Every Friday Tel. 01384 243220

SWAIN Wyre Forest Meets the first Wednesday monthly For more details phone Tel: 07842 070 240

TIME OUT COUNSELLING Coventry For all LGBT+ people Tel 07936 525668

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Tel 01905 429800

Trans Support

LEICESTER BUTTERFLIES for info visit facebook com /groups/butterfliesleicester

OUTSKIRTS TRANS-GENDER SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP The West Midlands largest transgender social support group Email sally@outskirtstg co uk or visit www.outskirtstg.co.uk

SANCTUARY Providing support and practical help Tel: 01902 744424

SANCTUARY STOKE Support people who are Transsexual, Transvestite or Transgender in North Staffs www.gaystoke org.uk

TRANS SOUTH STAFFS Support and group for people who are Trans Transvestite or Transgender. Tel: 01543 411413

TRANS SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday monthly Tel 01902 425092

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Walsall HIV Team 07963 124 445
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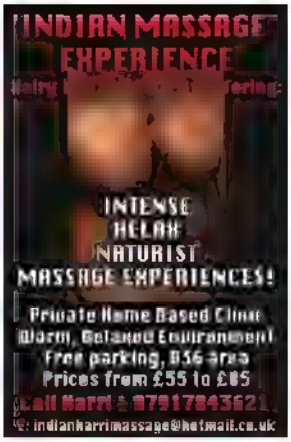

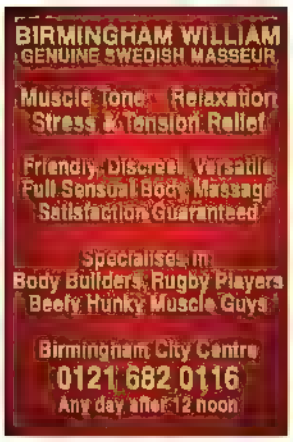

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spartanhealthclub.co.uk

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61 Bedford St,
South Leicester LE1 3JR
splashleisure.co.uk

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Lower Essex Street,
Birmingham, B5 6SN
unit2sauna.info

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38 Narborough Road
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8-9 St Mary's Gate Derby
DE1 3JF
citysteam.co.uk

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1 Lennox Street
Nottingham NG1 1ED
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ON THE BALL
with Steve Ball

An End To Tolerance

So the longest running General Election campaign is finally over. Whether you're a 'shy Tory' taking quiet comfort from the Conservative majority or a Labour or Lib Dem supporter inconsolable in your grief, there is one significant silver lining; the UK has the highest number of out gay and lesbian MPs ever recorded in the world.

At least 155 out LGBT candidates stood for election on 7 May, with 32 being elected to the House of Commons. The new Parliament now includes 13 gay Labour MPs, 12 Conservatives and the rest from the Scottish National Party (SNP). In line with their disastrous result, the Liberal Democrats lost all four of their sitting LGB MPs.

But I doubt we will win the gayest parliament in the world competition. That must surely go to Luxembourg, where the Prime Minister, Xavier Bettel, and the country's deputy prime minister, Etienne Schneider, are both gay. Bettel is the first European Union leader - and only the second worldwide leader - to marry someone of the same sex. He married his partner, Gauthier Destenay, an architect from Belgium, last month in a quiet civil ceremony with friends and family, away from the glare of publicity.

As if that wasn't enough, the Republic of Ireland became the first country to hold a national referendum on same-sex marriage. Supported by Irish people living in the UK who returned home to cast their votes, the once socially conservative country gave a massive thumbs-up to legalise gay marriage. The result marked a pivotal moment in the evolving relationship between Church and State and sparked spontaneous street parties in Dublin's gay quarter.

But as Fintan O'Toole reported in the Irish Times, what looked like a victory for tolerance was actually an end to mere toleration. Tolerance is what 'we' extend, in our gracious goodness, to 'them'. It's about saying "You do your own thing over there and we won't bother you so long as you don't bother us".

The resounding Yes is a statement that Ireland has left tolerance far behind, saying that there's no 'them' anymore. LGBT people are us - our sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, neighbours and friends. Ireland was given the chance to replace tolerance with the equality of citizenship. And the Irish took it in both arms and hugged it close. Gay marriage is, after all, not a privilege or a permission but a basic human right.

Photo by Simon Clancy

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